

PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 61, Number 10

Houston, Texas

May 16, 2017

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SALAAM SUPPER: A SUCCESS!

Two weeks ago St. Philip responded to a request for support from Refugee Services of Texas (RST). Sponsored by the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee a Salaam Supper was held,

the purpose being to hear fact-based information about refugee resettlement here in Houston and to introduce church members and others to the work of this organization, one of several engaged in this humanitarian situation. The guests were very generous and contributed \$1,750 for the people they serve and will be matched by the Diesslin Foundation.

Two years ago, alarmed and concerned about the plight of refugees, many of whom are Muslim, the P&SJ Committee began to study the refugee crisis. In recent months the situation has worsened. Today the Committee is even more committed to exploring ways that our church can get involved in a meaningful way, even to the extent of supporting a refugee family.



A closer involvement with RST is one of several "first steps" now being taken. Hosting the Salaam Supper provided the opportunity for more than 50 St. Philipians and others to hear from RST speakers, one of whom is a Somalian refugee, now serving on the RST staff in job training and mentoring.

With this Supper we have made a good start toward connecting St. Philip with refugee assistance. Other collaborative activities are being planned. As one member of the committee reminded us: "I believe we have planted a seed and now we have to nurture it. That's our next step."

More information will be forthcoming as committee plans develop. In the meantime, interested persons are invited to contact committee co-chairs, Rhonda Sands and Chuck Seidel, with questions or suggestions or indication of willingness to participate. Financial donations can be made directly to Refugee Services of Texas at www.rstx.org.

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

INTRODUCING
THE NEW APP
My ST. PHILIP

The Installation of Omar Rouchon as Associate Pastor

June 4, 2017

The Day of Pentecost

11:00 a.m.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church

With a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

**there will not be an 8:30 worship service that day*



MO-RANCH RETREAT INFORMATION PACKETS & MO SHOWER COLLECTION

This year's retreat is approaching! From **June 8-11**, St Philipians will gather in the Hill Country to worship and play, learn and rest. Led by community musician and Wild Goose worship group contributor Jane Bentley, we will be celebrating the Spirit's Rhythms of Grace while we enjoy the water and trails, sun and stars, fun and fellowship at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX.

Participants may pick up an informational packet in the Gathering Area before/after worship on **May 28** or **June 4** (or in the church office after **5/28**).

MO-RANCH SHOWER

Each year our congregation offers a gift to support the work of Mo-Ranch's Housekeeping department. Our Mo Shower allows Housekeeping to purchase needed equipment and materials not provided for in the regular operating budget. Over the years, we've made significant contributions to the upkeep of the Ranch in this way. Please consider making a contribution even if you are unable to join us on the retreat.



Contributions may be made at the table in the Gathering Area, in the church office during the week, or via saintphilip.net (specify "Mo Shower").

On Sunday, May 7, First Presbyterian Pasadena youth joined the youth of St. Philip Presbyterian Church for a Kids Against Hunger pack. Each year, the youth of FPC Pasadena elect the recipient of their Souper Bowl of Caring Offering, and for the past few years, they've chosen Kids Against Hunger! In an effort to offer their tithes and lives, they come to participate in one packing session a year. Together, youth and adults packed 8,922 meals for Kids Against Hunger.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Helen Harris' family upon her death on May 8. Memorial Service scheduled **June 24** at SPPC.
 Margaretta Bolding's family upon her death on May 10. Memorial Service scheduled **June 21** at SPPC
 Van Rathgeber—recovering from surgery at Memorial Hermann—Memorial City
 Tamara Arlinghaus—recovering from surgery on May 10
 Barbara Rathgeber—receiving dialysis
 Barbara Cloninger—at Home Sweet Home Hospice Care in Katy
 Anné Keever—recovering from leg surgery
 Mike Bates & family coping with wife Julie's death, friend of Stephen Paine
 Diane Boddington Nahajzer—Laura Burgess' aunt receiving cancer treatments
 Barry McCarthy—friend of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo recovering from a stroke
 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, Larry Dean, George Helland, Donna Host, Malcolm Host, Jay Jeanes, T.E. "Joe" Keever, Carol Paine Kendrick, Carey Murphey, Alice Pennington, Carolyn Vestal, Penny Vieau, Sixto Wagan, Ruth Weber

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be **May 28**. 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.

ART EXHIBIT

AT WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 WPC INVITES YOU TO A SACRED ART EXHIBIT
EARTH, FIRE, WIND, AND WATER
—Finding God in Nature



Sunday, July 2 Exhibit closes after Sunday services.

St. Philip's own *HOPE WILMARTH* has three art quilts in this exhibit.

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

JOHN BLOW CLEARING HOUSE

The Clearing House is the place to bring all discards: books, clothing, household items, anything and everything, excluding furniture and computers. These items will be passed on to various agencies that are supported by our church. These include Christian Community Service Center, The Women's Home, SEARCH, and House of Tiny Treasures.

The Clearing House is located in the stand-alone brick building by the staff parking lot. It is open on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During the week the key is available in the front office.

John Blow was a member of St. Philip many years ago, Janet Davis recalls. John may not have started the Clearinghouse, but he managed it for many years in a small shed. Once the classrooms were added, the current building went unused, so John and others proposed to use it for the Clearinghouse and soon handed the reins over to Mrs. Davis. Eventually upon John's death the church named it the John Blow Clearinghouse.

Many, many thanks to Don & Janet Davis, Tom Lewis and Paul Pennington for their great help with the Clearing House these days.

LORD OF THE STREETS

Many thanks to the 15 members of St. Philip for serving breakfast to the homeless on May 7 as part of the Lord of the Streets (LOTS). They include Linda Bevill, Skip Britton, Tom Cavanaugh, Janet Davis, Don Davis, Robert & Susan Estill, Joyce Fox, Governor Frazier, Sara Jean Jackson, Lorraine Lyter-Reed, Gay and John Van Osdall, Pam Rush, Jenilee Simmons, and Mark Takyama. We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you would like to make a short-term commitment to take part in this gratifying mission, please call Janet Davis at 713-464-2385. The next date to serve is **September 17**.



Adults are always needed at Amazing Place to help: administrative support, visiting with participants, sharing your skills, leading a Bible study or a number of other activities which can be found at: <http://www.amazingplacehouston.org/pdfs/Volunteer%20Opportunities.pdf>

If you are interested in these volunteer opportunities, please contact: Susie Howard -Director of Volunteer Services—showard@amazingplacehouston.org or 713-552-0420.

PW CIRCLES

The end of this month concludes the 2016-17 regularly scheduled PW Bible Study, they will resume in September.

- Sunday Circle—3rd Sun. of the month after 11 a.m. service in the Dining Room
- Wednesday Morning Circle—4th Wed. of the month at 10 a.m. in the Parlor

The Wednesday Evening Circle—1st Wed. of the month at 6 p.m. in the Dining Room will continue to meet through the summer.

ST. PHILIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OPERATION IMPACT

In preparation of hurricane season, Interfaith Ministries (IM) Meals-On-Wheels program needs volunteer groups to deliver shelf-stable meals and bottled water to all of their 4,000 homebound seniors in our community. These seniors are unable to prepare for disasters due to mobility issues. IM wants to make sure their homebound seniors are prepared with a week's worth of food and clean water.



About 30+ volunteers are needed for a St. Philip team which will be assigned 100 seniors. Three or four volunteers who drive large SUVs 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 every **Sunday in May** in the Gathering Area. You can also sign up by emailing Greg at ghan@imggh.org This is a one-time volunteer opportunity that the Mission Committee hopes you will respond to.

Young adults who want to participate please contact Keatan King (Keatan@saintphilip.net) or Angelina Fonseca (angelinamfonseca@hotmail.com).

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (POP)

St. Philip young adult and Director of Spiritual Care at Prayers of the People, Cameron Highsmith is excited to share opportunities to be involved in their prayerful ministry in area hospitals.

RSVP Clinic—Every Second Saturday of each month, POP partners 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."

Volunteers are asked to work for a minimum of 2 hours – from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; to register for any of a shift, 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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR 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 WILL RECESS MAY 28 FOR THE SUMMER

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 **May 21**

Youth Group (Grades 6-12) - 4:30—6:30 Youth Room

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.

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. Please contact Omar Rouchon if you have any questions. The next service is **May 28**.

CHURCH & SOCIETY - Room 201- **May 21** - *Raise the Age - Juvenile Justice in Texas* - Texas is one of only nine states that sets the age of adulthood at seventeen. Because seventeen-year-olds are handled in the adult criminal justice system, they do not have the right to the rehabilitative services or legal protections provided by the juvenile justice system - including anger management, counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy, education, family preservation, gang prevention/intervention, life skills, substance abuse prevention/intervention, and vocational skills. Building stronger families, safer communities, and a brighter future for Texas is the mission of the Public Policy Center - Texas Criminal Justice Coalition. This will be presented by Jay Jenkins, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition Project Attorney in Harris County (Houston) to promote broader criminal justice reform. **May 28** - *The Martian - At the Movies with Kate Burkart* - Watch the movie or read the book and then travel to Mars, where “Help is only 140 million miles away” with Kate leading us in seeing her theological perspective on *The Martian*.

PRESBYTERIAN 101 CLASS

A new round of Presbyterian 101 concludes this Sunday. 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.”

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

WEEKDAY CLASSES

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus) **May 22** 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* by Debby Irving. We will be discussing chapters 21 (Straddling two worlds) through 28 (I am the elephant). 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

Join John Wurster as he leads a discussion of the scripture lessons for the coming Sunday. The class meets at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday in the Dining Room. **May 17** will be the last discussion until September.

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. 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 **June 8** will be hosted by Jessie Fair. The book we will be discussing is *The Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig. Additionally, for those ladies going to Mo-Ranch, we will discuss the book there; see the schedule when you arrive. 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 **June 13** at 6:30 p.m. at the Good Dog Houston at 1321 W. Alabama, 77006