

PHILIP-EYE

The newsletter of St. Philip Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

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May 2, 2017

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SCENES FROM THE SEASON OF EASTER AT ST. PHILIP



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STAY CONNECTED!

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

Dear Friends,

Our Central Mission Endowment Fund (CMEF), now in its fourth year of operation, has allowed us to considerably expand and deepen our mission outreach and partnerships. Since 2014, over \$1.5 million has been disbursed from the Fund for a variety of transformational projects close to home and around the world. While the application deadline for 2017 CMEF grants is June 15, the CMEF council recently made a special grant in support of the capital campaign at Christian Community Service Center (CCSC).

Central Presbyterian Church was one of six congregations involved in the establishment of CCSC nearly forty years ago; and St. Philip has been a long-time participant congregation in this ministry, which extends food, clothing, and other assistance to needy people in our immediate area. Scores of St. Philip members have served as volunteers at CCSC through the decades, and CCSC support is an important aspect of our annual benevolence budget. The current CCSC facility, already barely adequate for this growing ministry, was significantly damaged in last year's floods. After much study, the CCSC board authorized a capital campaign to build a new structure at the current location on Mercer Street.

Given our many connections to CCSC, its prominent role in our community ministry, and its focus on responding to the needs of the vulnerable and the marginalized, the CMEF council decided to make a grant at this early stage of the capital campaign, understanding that gifts at this time play an important role in obtaining more substantial foundation funding. A CMEF grant for \$150,000 is being paid to CCSC this week. As the campaign continues, many of you will perhaps also have an interest in making individual contributions to its success. This grant is intended to encourage those gifts.

The 2017 CMEF council includes James Cooper, Sara Jean Jackson, Roderick James, Jenny Towns, Jeanette Wenneneser (presiding member), and Jennifer Wilson. I am grateful for the commitments these people have made to the care and utilization of this resource. This CCSC grant is the largest one in our short history, but I believe the council was wise to respond to this unique opportunity in a way commensurate with CCSC's deep connection to Central and St. Philip.

There is still much more ahead for the Fund in 2017 – and beyond. I'm eager to learn what God has in store for us.

Faithfully yours,



IN OUR PRAYERS

Ed & Janet Hess—grandparents once again on April 28th, to
Hannah Grace Meenaghan
Helen Harris—recovering from a fall
Jay Jeanes—hospitalized at University Hospital, San Antonio,
with injuries
Sixto Wagan—partner of Matthew Dirst, recovering from
bicycle injury
Tim Burgess and family upon the death of his grandmother
Melvona Friichtenicht, in Illinois
Carey Murphey—recuperating
Barbara Rathgeber—receiving dialysis
Margaretta Bolding—at The Treemont
Barbara Cloninger—at Home Sweet Home Hospice Care Anné
Keever—recovering from leg surgery
Carol Paine Kendrick—Steve Paine's sister, hospitalized for
degenerative back issues
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 FL
Jack Wetmore—friend of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo is
receiving treatment

Recuperating at Home



Joe Ann Berwick, Larry Dean, Helen Harris, George
Helland, Donna Host, Malcolm Host, T.E. "Joe" Keever,
Alice Pennington, Carolyn Vestal, Penny Vieau, 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

-  **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)

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

RSVP Clinic—Every Second Saturday of each 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!

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.

Balancing the Storm—Prayers Of the People is happy to announce the beginning of a new endeavor to provide pastoral care for the faith and hospital communities of the greater Houston area!

Starting on Thursday, May 4th and running until Thursday, June 22nd, the support group, "Balancing the Storm," will provide pastoral care for a variety of needs. Our President and Executive Director, AnneMarie Wallace will guide attendees through topics that deal with various issues found in hospital settings, such as hospice and palliative care, grieving processes and traumatic transitions of life, finding general support in a new community, and introduction to faith communities and ministries, along with a variety of other topics.

Each session will take place at the Presbytery of New Covenant building on Thursday nights from 6 to 8 PM. Due to a generous donation from one of our own Lay Ministers, these eight sessions will be free for all registrants! A box dinner and refreshments will be provided!

Please at register: <http://popministry.org/support-group/>

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 first-hand 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 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).



Amazing Place is welcoming students this summer to participate in our STARS Program (Student Training in Alzheimer's & Respite). The program will once again include 20-25 young adults, ages 16-22, who will be specially trained to interact in various programs with our participants. Last year our STARS provided over 1200 hours of volunteer time, and three students put in more than 100 hours each! We ask for a commitment from each student of at least 30 hours each. Students who are interested in the program need to fill out volunteer applications as soon as possible (the program fills quickly) but no later than **May 15**. STARS Application forms can be completed online by clicking the following link: <https://www.volgestics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=1159290201>

We will hold two training sessions; students are required to attend one of them prior to beginning to volunteer. They are tentatively scheduled for **June 5** and **June 12**. Once trained, our student volunteers sign up online for at least ten three-hour shifts throughout the summer. Shifts are currently Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1p.m.-4 p.m.

The youth and enthusiasm that our students bring infuse our building with renewed energy and joy. We look so forward to summertime!

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.

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 **May 14**

Youth Choir (Grades 6-12) - 3:30—Choir Room

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. 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 **May 14**.

CHURCH & SOCIETY - Room 201- **May 7** - *The Central Presbyterian Mission Endowment Fund Grant for Memory Care Facilities at Bayou Manor* - This month the Brazos Towers at Bayou Manor’s memory care community will implement the internationally recognized Music and Memory program which helps individuals struggling from dementia and other chronic cognitive and physical impairments reconnect with family, friends and caregivers through personalized digital music program. These musical favorites will tap deep memories not lost to dementia and can bring participants back to life, enabling them to feel like themselves again, to converse, socialize and stay present. The Central Presbyterian Mission Endowment Fund makes it possible for Bayou Manor to bring a higher quality of living to memory care residents. It will be presented by Kathleen Kuznicki, LMSW Director of Development, Brazos Presbyterian Homes, Inc. and Social Worker, Bayou Manor Healthcare Center; and Frankie Irwin, the Memory Care manager at Bayou Manor. **May 14** - *Consequences of Defunding Planned Parenthood Act of 2017* - presented by Angie Wiens Talbert - Vice President of Public Affairs and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast Action Fund.

PRESBYTERIAN 101 CLASS

A new round of Presbyterian 101 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.”

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

On Monday, **May 8**, at 5:30 p.m., we continue our discussion of Debby Irving’s book, *Waking Up White*, with chapters 17, “My good people,” through 20, “My Robin Hood syndrome.” The book is available in electronic or traditional form at the usual sources. Besides conversation, our meetings include light food and drink, fellowship, and an opening prayer. We meet each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in the Dining Room.

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.

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 **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 contact 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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

April 2017

Called Session Meeting – April 9th

- Session sustained the examination of Confirmation Class students, Anne Johnson, Eleanor Kimbro, Austin Lippincott, George White, and Zack White; acted to receive them into the membership of the church; and invited them to make a profession of faith before the congregation on April 16, 2017.
- Session authorized having Austin Lippincott, upon his profession of faith, receive the Sacrament of Baptism on April 16, 2017.

Called Session Meeting – April 16th

- Session received into membership:
Marion Takehara by letter of transfer from Bear Creek United Methodist Church, 16000 Rippling Water Drive, Houston, TX 77084

Stated Session Meeting – April 18th

- Session approved the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism on May 7, 2017 of Lindsey Hogan, who had met with the Session earlier about joining the church.
- Session approved a correction to the December Communion Offering recipient which will go to the Joy Offering rather than the Peacemaking Offering.
- Session approved 2017 1st quarter transfers to Reserve for Replacement totaling \$8,445.91.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Central Mission Endowment Council has granted \$150,000 to the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) capital campaign.
- Property Committee has approved changing maintenance and repair service from Gowan to CFI, at the recommendation of Steve Carmichael.
- Property Committee has approved the drafting of new terms for the Transwestern parking license.

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 8**. You may contact Omar Rouchon (omar@saintphilip.net) with any questions.

PCHAS BABY GOODS RESPONSE

Thank you to Saint Philip for such a warm response to the plea for baby goods. There was such a strong response for the new mom, which has given her a good start with her new baby! St Philip donated:

211 diapers	270 wipes	6 bottles	diaper bag	baby bath	3 bottles baby wash
wash cloths	2 towels	5 bibs	teething ring pack	6 baby toys	pacifier pack
14 onesies	4 swaddlers/blankets	15 outfits	5 pairs of shoes	10 pairs of socks	6 panties

Amazon Gift cards which helped to purchase some of these goods.

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@img.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).

