

# PHILIP-EYE

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

Houston, Texas

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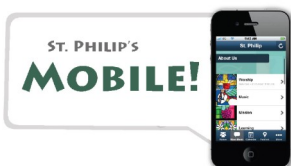
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**STAY CONNECTED!**

**WE CHOOSE  
WELCOME**



For World Refugee Day on **June 20th**, Refugee Advocacy Week **June 29th-July 2nd**, and beyond, the PCUSA Office of Immigration Issues and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly urge a time of prayer and recommitment to outreach and advocacy with refugees and asylees.

**PRAYER:** O God of the alien and the refugee, hear us as we pray for those who are far from home and homeland. Give them comfort and protection, food and shelter. Open our hearts to offer a welcome and guide us to know what we can do

to show your love to those within our midst who are seeking a new life and who have many blessings to share with us. Through Jesus who "had no place to lay his head." Amen.



Spring 2016 has been an especially active time for the St Philip Music Series. Programs and special services have included the Mozart *Requiem* in worship on March 13, a German Baroque Musical Meditation for Holy Saturday on March 26, Jazz Communion on April 3, the Houston

Boychoir on April 10, Bach Society Houston on April 24, and Houston Baroque on May 1. Most of these programs are supported through the St Philip Special Music Fund, which periodically needs replenishing, since it is not an annual budget line. As we prepare to welcome a new director music, please consider making a generous donation to Special Music, so that we can continue to offer high quality musical programming for worship services and concerts, which annually bring many grateful visitors to our beautiful campus and facilities.

## BETHESDA CLINIC IN XOCENPICH, YUCATAN

Bethesda Clinic, located in the Yucatan village of Xocenpich, has been a long-time mission partner with St. Philip Church. Dr. Jose Estrella, a long-time friend of Ruth and Dick Weber, and his son Dr. Federico Estrella, manage the *clinica*. Another son, Rev. Pablo Estrella is a Presbyterian minister in Merida. They serve the greater community without regard for those who can pay or those who are unable to pay. They truly are our brothers in Christ, serving the poor and needy. This organization will be the recipient of the June 5th communion offering.

**BETHESDA CLINIC IN XOCENPICH - YUCATAN, MEXICO**



**JUNE 5TH  
COMMUNION OFFERING**  
[ A MISSION PARTNER WITH ST. PHILIP ]

## Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and support following my surgery last week. I had the nerves in the back of my head decompressed in hopes of alleviating the continual headaches I've suffered for the past three years. While it will take a few months to fully assess the effects of the surgery, the early results are promising. I have some post-operative pain and swelling around the incisions and some stiffness in my neck from the removal of muscle, but I'm steadily getting better. I will spend this week at home recuperating and expect to resume some activities next week, including our Mo-Ranch retreat.

Faithfully yours,

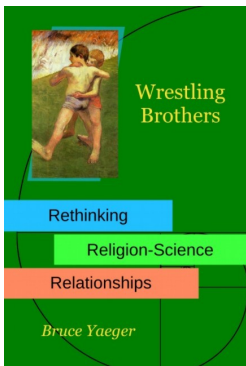



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## AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS NATIONAL CONVENTION

You are invited to attend one of two recitals hosted by St Philip for the American Guild of Organists National Convention on Monday and Tuesday afternoon, **June 20-21**, which showcase the Fritts organ in two diverse programs. The two Monday performances (at 2 and 4 pm) feature German organist Ludgar Lohmann while the Tuesday performances (also at 2 and 4 pm) feature the Davidsson Organ and Dance Collaborative. Tickets may be purchased on-line at [agohouston2016.com](http://agohouston2016.com) — scroll down the page to the green shaded area with the black button that reads “Click Here to reserve single tickets.” Tickets are \$20 each and are available for purchase until venues are sold out. Additional information on the performances and the entire convention is available on the same website.

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## BOOK BY VETERAN ST. PHILIP TEACHER PUBLISHED

Bruce Yaeger -- who has taught a set of classes at St. Philip annually since the year 2000 -- is the author of a newly published book. It is titled *Wrestling Brother: Rethinking Religion-Science Relationships*. (Available on Amazon or from Bruce.) The book is unique in the way it blends history, theology, psychology and spirituality.

A member of St. Philip, Bruce first came to the Church and Society Class as a guest teacher (at the invitation of the Rev. Greg Han) when Bruce was a member of Central Presbyterian Church, then pastored by the Rev. Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson. Guinn has said of Bruce that he “is the most theologically literate, thoughtful, and articulate lay person” she has “known in her thirty years of ordained ministry.”

Now, readers of Bruce’s new book can benefit from his lifetime of interest in both religion and science, and his decades of teaching classes that grapple with the two together.

## HELP!!!

The young adults have been volunteering the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Presbytery of New Covenant to support the Montrose Street Reach Ministry. They serve the homeless snacks which they supply and serve 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. Thank you.

There will be a single service on June 12 at 11:00.



## Are you Presby Pro (Presbyterian Proficient)?

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

1. In what year did the General Assembly denounce slavery and call for gradual emancipation?
  2. Who was the first American Presbyterian missionary in 1833 and where did he sail to?
-

## 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.*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER RECESS!

Most Sunday school classes are now on summer break. Church & Society and the Adult Bible Study will meet one more time this Sunday, **June 5**. Following the break, all classes will resume in the fall on Rally Day, Sunday, **September 11**. Please join us in expressing gratitude for all of the dedicated leaders who have served St. Philip in its education ministries this year:

Godly Play: *Ruth Waldrop, Omi Ford and Joyce Fox*

Lower Elementary: *Kara and Paul D'Agostino*

Upper Elementary: *Linda Bevill and McNair Johnson*

Middle School: *Elizabeth Elliott and Jack Lippincott*

High School: *John Lemen and Cathy Steward*

SPa: *Greg Han and Randy Steward*

Adult Bible Study: *Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop*

Church & Society: *Mickey Meyers and Stew Coffman*

*Stay tuned for information about intergenerational education opportunities and other special classes this summer! And don't forget to register your children or volunteer online for Vacation Bible School: **July 11-15**. If you have any questions, please contact Omar Rouchon.*

## ADULT CLASSES

### CHURCH & SOCIETY - Room 201

**June 5** - *Allowing Everyone to Vote: The Fifteenth Amendment and the Voting Rights Act* - The Fifteenth Amendment to the US Constitution prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's race, color or previous condition of servitude. It was ratified in 1870. Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which provided federal oversight of elections in discriminatory jurisdictions, banned literacy tests and similar discriminatory devices, and created legal remedies for people affected by discrimination. In 2013 the Supreme Court voted 5-to-4 to free nine states to change their election laws without advance federal approval.

Presented by Professor Peter Linzer, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Houston Law Center. Church and Society will resume classes on **September 11, Rally Day**, with a preview of the fall semester.

### 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. The final class session is on **June 5<sup>th</sup>** before breaking for the summer.

### 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. Join us in the fall.

## SUMMER READING

For the five Sundays in July, John Wurster and Deb Burks will lead a class exploring contemporary literature and the life of faith. The class will use short selections from the book, *Listening for God*, which includes writings from authors like Flannery O'Connor, Annie Dillard, and Garrison Keilor. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$10. If purchasing the book from an online source, order volume 1 of the *Listening for God* series, edited by Paula Carlson and Peter Hawkins. The class will meet at 9:30 in the Dining Room beginning **July 3**.

## WEEKDAY STUDIES

### MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus) **June 13** 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 *How to Read the Bible* by Harvey Cox. We will be discussing chapter 4 (Talking back to God from the garbage heap: The Book of Job). 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.

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets every Friday in the Conference Room at 12:00 p.m. They have selected *Words Made Flesh* by J. Pittman McGehee. Robert Estill has copies of the book available for \$15. Men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. All men are 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. Our next meeting, is **June 9**; we will discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd check email for location. Additionally, for those ladies going to Mo-Ranch, we will discuss the book there Saturday night at Ramada following the 9:00 p.m. worship. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information go to: <http://saintphilip.net/BookGroup.html>

### YOUNG ADULT SUMMER SERIES: BIBLE STUDY

#### **The Treasure of Torah: Summer Study and Supper**

The young adults will study the Torah together over dinner at Keatan King's home. After all, "one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God!" (If you remember Jesus saying this while being tempted in the wilderness, you might also remember he was quoting Scripture. Which text, you might wonder? Torah! Deuteronomy 8:3 to be precise.)

#### **SCHEDULE: Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

- ☐ **June 14:** Lasagna and Leviticus
- ☐ **July 19:** Noodles and Numbers
- ☐ **August 9:** Deep Dish and Deuteronomy

For each gathering, please RSVP to Keatan by the deadline in order to secure your supper.

**SUMMER TIME WITH ST. PHILIP**

• **MO RANCH**—This year’s retreat is approaching! From **June 9-12**, St Philipians will gather in the Hill Country to worship and play, learn and rest. Led by Fran Shelton, our keynote speaker, we will be exploring our *Senses of Wonder* while we enjoy the water and trails, sun and stars, fun and fellowship. Participants may pick up an informational packet in the Gathering Area before/after worship on **May 22, 29, or June 5** (or in the church office after **5/22**). Registration for a Pin Hole Photography class will be taken at the same time.

• **SKEETERS GAME**—

Join us for a Skeeters baseball game on Saturday, **June 25** at 6:05pm. Tickets include the game and a hot dog, chips, and drink. (\$19 per ticket) Tickets will be sold before and after 11 a.m. worship in the gathering area on a first come, first serve basis. All ages welcome on this fellowship event.



• **WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM**—Ice cream novelties after church for Independence Day on Sunday, **July 3rd**



**MO-RANCH**

The committee coordinating our retreat is in need of glass jars for a project. They should be the size of a spaghetti sauce jar or smaller and made of clear glass. There will be collection boxes in the sanctuary and the office.

We also need clear plastic clam shells for a craft project; this is the type packaging strawberries come in. Thank you.

**YOUTH BEACH RETREAT**

**A Weekend of Play, Mission, and Worship August 12-14.** We'll head to Galveston to reconnect and catch up on everyone's travels, camps, and other adventures. Entering 6th graders will be invited to join us for the first time! Details regarding cost, the schedule, packing list, and transportation will come your way soon from Keatan King.

**IM**  
INTERFAITH  
MINISTRIES  
FOR GREATER HOUSTON

**DINNER dialogues**

**Expanding the Circle:**  
Interfaith Dialogue Needs You, Houston Needs Interfaith Dialogue

In this final Dinner Dialogue of the 2015-16 IR program year, come expand the circle of dialogue. If you are a prior Dinner Dialogue attendee, bring a new attendee for free! Help introduce the value of interfaith dialogue to someone new.

**THURSDAY JUNE 2ND, 6:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M.**

Help Interfaith Relations expand the circle of understanding. Help make Greater Houston a city of respect. In order to "expand the circle" we invite you to bring up to two friends for free who have never attended a dinner dialogue. Registration for returning friends is \$20 per person. Hosted in homes throughout Houston.

**THE SUMMER LECTURE SERIES**

**MARK ALLAN POWELL**

**AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup> ~ 2016**

**NEW INSIGHTS INTO**

**THE TEACHING OF JESUS**

We are very excited to have **Dr. Mark Allan Powell**, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, with us this year on **August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**. Jesus taught for only a short span of years in Palestine, but his teaching and his presence have continued to enlighten, challenge, and invigorate the church and the world. As we continue to discern the guiding principles we should follow in struggling to be faithful to Jesus’ vision of the reign of God, the Summer Lectures in 2016 will offer the opportunity for us to reflect on five driving concerns that shaped Jesus’ faith, an often overlooked interpretation of the Beatitudes in Matthew, how the widespread practice of slavery may have impacted Jesus’ moral vision and priorities, and the provision Jesus may have made to allow his followers to reflect on biblical commandments in light of changed circumstances. The week-end will include three daytime sessions on Saturday with lunch, a Saturday evening gathering for Young Adults (20’s and 30’s), and a gathering at the Sunday School hour for the Youth (Jr. and Sr. High’s). Mark will also preach at both worship services on Sunday.

**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.



This year, our contributions will go towards the purchase of a "Vertical Valet" unit to help the staff move equipment between floors in Wynne/Flato. Contributions may be made at the table in the Gathering Area, in the church office during the week, or via [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) (specify Mo Shower).

**ARTS & CRAFT STUDIO**

The next scheduled Saturday craft for **June 4** from 12 p.m. till 6 p.m. has been cancelled due to forecasted rains, graduations and the start of summer. There will be no crafting in July because that is July 4th weekend; we hope you celebrate safely the birth of our country. We should return in August.

**CEDEPCA's  
30TH ANNIVERSARY**

On Sunday, **June 5**, 2:00-4:00 p.m., members of Presbytery of New Covenant and friends of CEDEPCA are invited to help celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CEDEPCA's ministries and of our presbytery's partnership. Our partners who are coming from Guatemala to give us a current update about CEDEPCA's work are:



- **Judith Castaneda**, Director of CEDEPCA based in Guatemala City
- **Emerson Morales**, Coordinator of Intercultural Encounters
- **Judy Moore**, PC(USA) Long-term Volunteer

Join us for this dessert gathering at St. Philip Presbyterian Church in the Dining Room. Contact is Cheryl Rowan ([cjrowan0817@gmail.com](mailto:cjrowan0817@gmail.com) and 281-682-8554) or our own Vicki McKay.

CEDEPCA is a Spanish acronym for *Centro Evangelico de Estudios Pastorales en America Central* (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America), an educational institution that works to transform lives and communities through education, pastoral training, women's ministry, and disaster assistance.

**SAVE THE DATE! CONNECT WITH MONTREAT**

October 25-28, 2016 Plan to join women and men from churches across our presbytery for a retreat at one of the national conference centers for the PC(USA). What a perfect time of year to encounter God through relationships, renewal, recreation, and rest in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

Not only will we learn about Montreat Conference Center, we will have the opportunity for bible study using the St. John's Illuminated Bible. A caravan along the Blue Ridge Parkway has also been scheduled. Everyone will be responsible for his or her own transportation to Montreat. Housing and meals will be in the newly renovated Assembly Inn. Costs and registration information will be available soon. Questions?? Contact: Anne Wilson at [anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com) or Sara Jean Jackson at [sjj10223@gmail.com](mailto:sjj10223@gmail.com).

**YOUTH**

The youth are taking action in recognition of Earth Day and collecting used batteries which they will recycle.

**LORD OF THE STREETS (LOTS)**

Many thanks to the members of St. Philip, specifically Lee and Bob Ardell, Tom Cavanaugh, Janet and Don Davis, Elizabeth Duerr, Keith Fletcher, Angelina Fonseca, Jo Helland, Allison Hooker, Suzanne Kerr, Lorraine Lyter-Reed, Cynthia Shoup, Jenilee Simmons and Mark Takayama for serving breakfast to the homeless on May 22. 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 11**.



**IN OUR PRAYERS**

- John Wurster—recovering from surgery at home
- Carolyn Vestal—receiving cancer treatment
- Harold Dement—recovering from heart surgery
- Kappy Pratt—hospice care at home
- Helen Harris—recuperating at Brookdale Galleria
- Candace Demary's parents, Wayne & Peggy Bourque, coping with health issues in Lake Charles; Wayne is receiving hospice care at home
- Karen & Bill Morris's nephew Jason in Virginia, diagnosed with Stage IV colorectal cancer
- T.E. Keever – Hallmark Healthcare Center
- Jan Conner - coping with many health issues
- Lorraine Lyter-Reed's brothers: Martin is recovering from amputation; Leland – ongoing cancer treatment
- Joe Anne Berwick—residing at Belmont
- Pat Clark—treatment at MD Anderson
- Mike Tomforde, Jr.—Hallmark HC
- Larry Dean—Seven Acres

**Recuperating at Home**

- |                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Sue Baier       | Jan Conner      | Gary Gardner |
| Malcolm Host    | Rusty Howard    | Jo Jones     |
| Paul Pennington | Sondra Sullivan | Penny Vieau  |
| Ruth Weber      |                 |              |



1. 1818
2. John B. Pinney to Liberia