

# PHILIP-EYE

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

Houston, Texas

June 21, 2016

Volume 60, Number 12

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Pastor, Head of Staff

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Associate Pastor

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Ministry Associate

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Director of Music

**Dr. Matthew Dirst**  
Organist

**Alicia Chew**  
Children's Music Associate

**Lorrie Castle**  
Office Manager

**Denise Ferrell**  
Bookkeeper

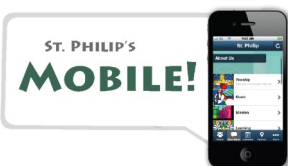
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**STAY CONNECTED!**

## JULY 3 COMMUNION OFFERING – HOUSE OF TINY TREASURES

Inside the purple gingerbread-style houses of SEARCH's House of Tiny Treasures ("HTT"), young children are receiving the education and the stability they need to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and homelessness. Founded in 1992 so that SEARCH's adult clients had someone to care for their children while they went back to work or school, the program is working to help children prepare for success in kindergarten and beyond. What began as a traditional day care has evolved into a nationally accredited early-childhood education center dedicated to serving homeless children and their families. HTT is open year-round and provides not only daycare services but a full early-childhood education program, including art and play therapy, field trips, healthy meals, clothes, and transportation to and from their shelter or housing program via HTT's little green bus.



*Allen and his mom, Allison. Thanks to the House of Tiny Treasures, Allen was well prepared for kindergarten.*



Being homeless takes a terrible toll on children, negatively affecting their physical and mental health as well as their ability to learn. Without proper interventions, homeless students will enter kindergarten up to two years behind their peers from more advantaged backgrounds. HTT's unique program is designed to provide the necessary support and therapeutic services to eliminate this gap and prepare its students to thrive alongside their peers academically and socially when they enter the mainstream classroom. In addition, SEARCH provides individualized case management to help

families with other support services such as employment, housing, and parenting skills.

"No matter their economic lot in life, I've yet to meet a parent who doesn't genuinely want the best for his or her child," said HTT Director Mitzi Bartlett. "We fill the gaps. We provide everything these children need to be successful in public school."

Due to the high level of need and the positive impact of this transformational program, SEARCH is opening a second HTT in Houston's Third Ward in August 2016, tripling the capacity and allowing the program to serve 104 children in need. SEARCH remains dedicated to working with the youngest among us - the children who were innocently born into a terrible situation - providing them with the start in life and the hopeful future that they deserve.

Our July 3 Communion Offering will support House of Tiny Treasures. Please consider making a gift during service or online at [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)



**Dear Friends,**



I'm glad to have Randall Swanson among us as our Director of Music. It's a propitious time for him to begin as the American Guild of Organists is meeting in Houston this week, and St. Philip is among the sites on the program. I appreciate Randall's efforts to be in place so that he can welcome all of these guest musicians to our campus. He is moving to Houston from Chicago, having most recently served at the Roman Catholic cathedral in Joliet, Illinois. Randall is from Wisconsin originally and did his doctoral work at Northwestern University. He impressed our search committee with the breadth of his experiences and abilities, having worked with a variety of age groups in a number of different settings. Randall will play the organ at the 8:30 service and other occasions as needed. He will conduct the St. Philip Choir and the Bell Canto and lead music for our children and youth. We will have a welcome reception for Randall on **June 26**, following the 11:00 service. Please join me in welcoming him to St. Philip

Speaking of music, I am spending this week at a worship and music conference sponsored by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) at Mo-Ranch. Over the years, I have found PAM conferences to be the most valuable use of my continuing education time and funds. The conferences provide an opportunity to become aware of new resources, talk with worship leaders from across the country (and the denomination), explore new techniques, and recover old practices. Many elements of our worship at St. Philip are drawn from my experiences with PAM.

Speaking of Mo-Ranch, I continue to be amazed, delighted, and humbled as I think back on our St. Philip retreat and the bench dedicated on the twenty-fifth anniversary of my ordination. I was completely surprised and remain deeply honored. Many, many thanks for this thoughtful gift. When I was ordained in June 1991, I couldn't have imagined a journey that would take me from Philadelphia (four years) to Ohio (twelve years) to Kerrville (five years) and now Houston (four years and counting). Surely, it's been a grace-filled journey. I give thanks for all the people and the experiences I have encountered along the way. I also anticipate the road ahead as the journey continues. Thanks for your companionship!

Faithfully yours,



John's parents made an appearance at Mo-Ranch for the dedication.

**2016 SEAFARER CHRISTMAS BOXES**

It's time to start collecting shoe boxes and items for Seafarers' Christmas boxes which are distributed at the Port of Houston by chaplains to the merchant mariners. Learn about them at [www.seafarers.org](http://www.seafarers.org) A new item that we're collecting this year is small clear glass jars without labels (baby food, jams, spices, salsa, pimiento, pickles jars ) in which we can enclose band-aids, paper clips, rubber bands, and cotton balls. One hundred jars will be needed. We now have 75 hand-knitted hats for our Seafarers and want to encourage all the knitters to consider trying to knit one to five hats by November. We need at least 25 or more.

Additional items that are needed:

- |  |               |                |                  |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 100 large shoeboxes                              | socks         | washcloths     | bars of soap     |
| toothpaste/brushes                               | handkerchiefs | pencils        | pens             |
| paper  | cards         | paper clips    | sewing kits      |
| stick  | cotton balls  | band-aids      | cups             |
| gloves   | zip lock bags | small calendar | packs of tissues |
| decks of cards                                   | razors        | combs          | flashlights      |
| chewing gum                                      | hard candy    | rubber bands   | holiday cards    |
| hotel samples (shampoo, conditioner, hand cream) |               |                |                  |

Please place the items in the designated box in the Gathering Area or in the church office mail room.

Look for more information to come about the date for filling and wrapping the boxes. The wrapped Christmas boxes will be distributed to visiting Seafarers by volunteers and chaplains working with the Houston International Seafarers' Center.

These Christmas boxes mean a lot to the Seafarers, but they would not be possible without you!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL

### Nursery and Preschool

Infants and children through four years old

8:30 am to 12:30pm - Room 106

Staffed by professional childcare providers.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER RECESS!

Sunday school classes are now on summer break. *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.

### ORLANDO REFLECTIONS

John Wurster and Omar Rouchon will lead a conversational forum on the Orlando shootings next Sunday, **June 26**, in Room 201 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The forum is an opportunity to share, to speak, to listen, and to bear witness as we consider the variety of feelings sparked by this tragedy, as well as the challenges and opportunities it presents to people of faith.

### 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**.

### SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT VBS 2016: JESUS' BIG WORDS!

Come experience some of Jesus' most memorable teachings at St. Philip's Vacation Bible School, **July 11-15**. This summer's VBS workshops include art, music, science, drama, mission and more! We will begin each day with a time of movement, song and worship. Recreation and snack time will be enjoyed daily, as well.

You can learn more and register by visiting the church's website. Please contact Omi Ford or Omar Rouchon with any questions, [omar@saintphilip.net](mailto:omar@saintphilip.net)

**CHURCH & SOCIETY** - Room 201 - Classes will resume Sept. 18 with A Science-Religion Potpourri-Mini-Myths in Science Books presented by Bruce Yeager.

**BIBLE STUDY** – Room 204 – 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 in the fall.

**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. Please join us in the fall.

## WEEKDAY STUDIES

### MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

On our next regular meeting date, **June 27** (the fourth Monday), we continue our discussion of Harvey Cox's book *How to Read the Bible*, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., with chapter 5, "Listening to the voices of the voiceless: Amos and the prophets," and chapter 6, "Getting to the final four: Gospels, kept and discarded." Besides conversation, our meetings include light food and drink, fellowship, and a brief prayer. We meet in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus). Our regular meeting days are the second and fourth Mondays.

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Join the Men's Weekly Fellowship in the fall. They meet on Fridays in the Conference Room at noon. A book is chosen at the beginning of the year to discuss. Men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. Men of all ages 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 **July 14** we will meet at a local eatery, check your email for the location. 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.**

☐ **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. [keatan@saintphilip.net](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net)

### YOUNG ADULTS

The Young Adults of St. Philip support the Montrose Street Reach Ministry every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month during 2016, supplying and serving snacks to homeless persons gathering before they have dinner. The next date will be **June 22** from 5:30– 6:30 p.m. The address is 1110 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006. Caution: do not park behind Half Price Books, as they tow non-customers. Park instead on a side street or in front of the Presbytery Office. For more information contact Keatan King at [keatan@saintphilip.net](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net)

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

This summer the young adults will take time to visit the local breweries of Houston. Our next site will be *No Label Brew Company* on **June 25** at noon. The address is 5351 1st St., Katy, TX 77493. Check your inbox for more details soon.



## SUMMER TIME WITH ST. PHILIP

**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**

### 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.



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 weekend 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.

### PIECEMAKER QUILTERS

Can you sew a straight line? Are you interested in learning how to make a quilt? Do you want to take an active part in one of St. Philip's mission outreach programs? If your answer is "yes", please join us on Saturday morning **June 25** in the Arts & Crafts Studio from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. to learn more. All are welcome. Please contact Hope Wilmarth with questions at [hlwilmarth@hotmail.com](mailto:hlwilmarth@hotmail.com).

### ARTS & CRAFT STUDIO

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.



## SAVE THE DATE

### PRIMETIMERS

Plans are in the works for the next Primetimers activity. The bus is revved up to leave St. Philip parking lot on Monday, **July 25th**. Stay tuned for where the road will lead us.

### CONNECT WITH MONTREAT—OCTOBER 25-28

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).

### WELCOME OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

This week Randall Swanson begins his service as our Director of Music, playing the organ at 8:30 and leading the St. Philip Choir at 11:00. A welcome reception for Randall is scheduled for next Sunday, **June 26**, in the Gathering Area after the 11:00 service.

### SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be **June 26** at 5:00 p.m. 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.



**Mo-Ranch 2016**  
 Just some of the things that happened:

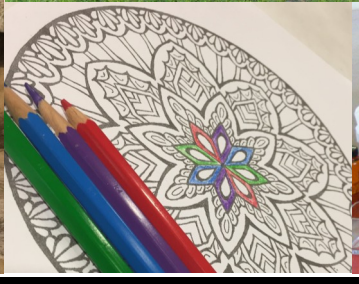
- Celebration of John's 25th Year
- Pop-up Card Making—Emily Estill
- Al Atkinson Tree Dedication—Atkinson Clan—Edward traveled the farthest to Mo-Ranch all the way from Bosnia, where he is doing a political internship



at the embassy

- Luminaries—Lee Ardell & Barb Rathgeber
- Coloring sheets were abound—soon to be seen somewhere at St. Philip
- Juggling—Brian Webster & Paul Arlinghaus

- Baptism—Amelia Larkin
- Rookies photo bombed by Lorrie Castle—Greg Germain & Omar Rouchon
- Ed Herrera Tree Dedication—Herrera Family and Friends
- Youth sporting bright colors for group picture



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS MAY 2016

Session approved the letters of transfer for Tom and Paulette Goetz to The Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples, Florida.

Session approved the following additions and changes to the Manual of Operations for St. Philip Presbyterian Church:


- Addition of the Treasurer's description in the Finance Committee section, plus a change to the timing of the nominating of the treasurer from "the January meeting" to "prior to the January meeting", plus the addition of a Summary Financial Policies to the appendices
- Changes to the Stewardship Committee section
- Replacement of the Worship and Music Committee section with an updated draft
- Replacement of the Communications section with an updated draft
- Changes to the Mission Committee section
- Changes to the Personnel Committee section

Session approved inviting Cameron Highsmith, a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary who is now working with the POPS ministry and is a candidate for ordination, to preach at St. Philip on the June 12, 2016 Mo-Ranch retreat weekend.

Session approved inviting Mark Allan Powell who will be our Summer Lecture Series lecturer this year on **August 13** and **14**, to preach at both worship services on **August 14**.


Session approved the purchase the Living Waters for the World Vacation Bible School Curriculum to use on Sunday, **July 17** and Sunday, **July 24** during an intergenerational Sunday School class.

Session approved the transferring of \$5,602.03 of 2016 first-quarter building and electrical expenditures from the Property Committee budget to the Reserve for Replacement.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Celebrate Virginia Lemen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday as her family honors her with a reception at Brazos Towers at Bayou Manor in the Living Room (lounge) on Sunday afternoon, **July 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 2 to 4 p.m. Your *presence*, in body or spirit, and *not presents* is requested. RSVP to John Lemen only if you can attend, as refreshments will be provided.  
(email: [naamanjal@earthlink.net](mailto:naamanjal@earthlink.net) or phone: 713-669-8446)



### IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Kappy Pratt upon her death on June 9. Memorial service will be June 22, 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Dan Hayes—Lorrie Castle's father is recovering from back surgery in Cincinnati

Carolyn Vestal—receiving cancer treatment

Jean Benswon Miksch—radiation treatment

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

Jan Conner—recovering from broken shoulder at new home—The Treemont

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

Larry Dean—Seven Acres

T.E. Keever—Hallmark Healthcare Center  
Don DeCamp—Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin's friend who has metastatic prostate cancer

#### Recuperating at Home

Sue Baier	Jan Conner
Helen Harris	Malcolm Host
Rusty Howard	Jo Jones
Alice Pennington	Paul Pennington
Sondra Sullivan	Penny Vieau
Ruth Weber	

### Are you Presby Pro (Presbyterian Proficient)?

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

1. Where is the G.A. meeting this week?
2. True or False: Keatan King is a teaching elder.



### RESULTS OF MAY'S COMMUNION OFFERINGS

**CCSC'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL** program received \$1,144.00 during the May 1 communion offering. Another way to support this program is by volunteering to help sort and set up on Saturday, July 30, 7:30 am – 12:30. Also volunteers are needed to help distribute the supplies on Friday, August 5 and/or Saturday, August 6, 7:30 am – 1:00 pm. All of these events will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 4600 Bellaire Blvd. (just inside Loop 610 at Avenue B).



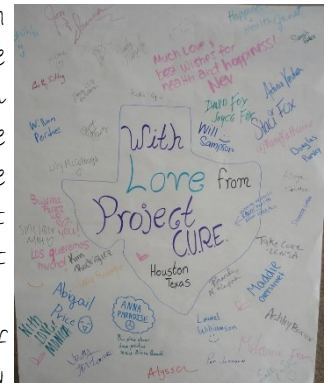
**PCUSA Pentecost offering** was the recipient of the communion offering on Pentecost Sunday and received a total of \$2,131.05, which was divided between PCUSA Special Offerings and Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services. PCUSA received \$1,278.63 or 60% which is allocated to Ministries with Youth, Young Adult Volunteers and ministries to improve education and provide a safe haven for children across the globe. Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services received 40% of the offering or \$852.42 to help at-risk children, youth and young adults in our own community.

Thank you,  
The Mission Committee

### BETHESDA CLINIC UPDATE

#### THE ARRIVAL OF THE EQUIPMENT

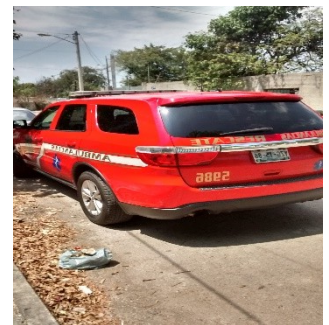
A few weeks ago, the Bethesda Clinic and the Nurses Aid School in Xocenpich received, with great joy, a shipment that came from PROJECT C.U.R.E. made through the friendly hands of our brothers at Saint Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston. This adventure has taken many months of preparation to get it into the country via the Government of the Yucatan State. We have to say thank you to the team, as they have done a wonderful job. At the time of the arrival, we had not known the size and weight of all that was in the container. So, at first, we thought that a 3 TNS truck would transport it. No way, we needed a 10 TNS truck.



The next concern we had was that we needed a large storage room. We spent a lot of time searching and finally found one. Then we had to find people to load and unload the shipment. In searching for people to help, we spoke to different friends who were ready to help. That day was the longest day we have had. At the end of the day we accomplished all that we needed to do.

Today, as you can see in the pictures, all is set at the Clinic and we have had the opportunity to share the disposable supplies with different organizations that are involved in doing emergency help to poor people. Once again, thank you our brothers and sisters. These days, we are working on the installation of the lamps, the sterilizer and some electrical facilities. We hope that soon, all will be done.

José Estrella, M.D.  
Federico Estrella, M.D.  
Pablo Estrella, Pastor  
Xocenpich, Yucatán, June 2016



**OPERATION IMPACT COMPLETE!**

Thank you to the IMpact team that helped pick up and deliver supplies the weekend of May 21-22. Our team efficiently picked up supplies for 45 homebound seniors, which included 45 cases of water and 45 boxes of ready-to-eat meals. A total of 38 St. Philippians, often working in teams, helped to get all of these supplies delivered!

Operation Impact is Interfaith Ministries' (IM) project that delivers clean water and shelf-stable meals to IM's 4,000 Meals-on-Wheels clients. These clients, almost all of them over 60, receive weekday meals because they are homebound and in need of a nutritious meal. For many of these clients, IM also provides breakfast and also delivers about 1,000 pounds of pet food with our Animeals on Wheels program.

Operation Impact ensures that IM's clients have meals ready going into hurricane season in the event that weather prevents deliveries.

Thank you to the following IMpact team members:

David Fox and Don Davis, who picked up supplies.

Patrick Ball, our photographer.

Steve Nettles, Chuck Johnson, Pam and Mark Taylor, for providing logistical support and moved supplies.

Delivery Teams: Beth Atkinson/Cathy Herrera; Mary Maguire; Don/Janet Davis; Keith/Lane Fletcher; John/Pat/David Lindsay; Larry Wright/granddaughter Laurence Brooks; Jan Meyer/Jane Cooper; Lorraine Lyter-Reed; Pam Rush; Sarah/Bill O'Dell; Linda Bevill/Jenilee Simmons; Judith Hiott/Kelly Fair/Margaret Fair; Mary Ann Thomas/Shelley Smith; Max/Jeanette Wennenweser; Sara/Zach Bitting; Cletus Johnson



Thanks for your help!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



MEMORY PRESERVATION NUTRITION SUPPORT (aka MPN/Kitchen Help)

Amazing Place needs volunteers to come and help out in our kitchen working directly with Chef Michael, preparing fresh and nutritious meals for our participants as part of our Memory Preservation Nutrition program. MPN support includes preparing and chopping fresh fruits/vegetables, assisting with recipe preparation and/or plating food as needed. A Texas Food Handler's card is required. The online course takes about an hour and costs \$10. Ideally, MPN volunteers would sign up to work a shift one day each week. We are looking for MPN support every day: [Monday – Friday from 9:30-1pm](#).

BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

Amazing Place is looking for compassionate people to lead our participants in a small group Bible study. Can be done individually or as a pair. We can provide a basic curriculum guide to follow; minimal preparation is required. Ideally, our Bible Study leaders commit to one day each week. We have Bible Study daily: [Monday – Friday from 1pm-2:15pm](#)

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susie Howard, Director of Volunteer Services, phone 713-552-0420 [showard@amazingplacehouston.org](mailto:showard@amazingplacehouston.org)



1. Portland, OR
2. True