

PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 61, Number 11

Houston, Texas

June 6, 2017

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Associate Pastor

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On May 7 the Session welcomed Lindsay Hogan to the congregation and on May 21 welcomed Nancy Higgs. Please take the time to say hello and welcome them to our church.



Lindsay Rene Hogan

Lindsay was baptized on May 7, 2017 at St. Philip. She grew up in Flower Mound, Texas and attended Baylor University and University of North Texas to become a psychologist. In her free time she enjoys running, yoga, reading, playing piano, and time with friends. Lindsay has been visiting St. Philip since fall 2015. During that time she has been involved in Young Adults and Presbyterian Women. She has joined the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee.



Nancy M. Higgs

Nancy comes to us by letter of transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Austin, TX. She grew up in Austin and attended the University of Texas and UTMB. Nancy is a registered nurse, and her hobbies are: swimming, running, scuba diving, biking, and enjoying nature. Nancy heard about St. Philip through "two sweet ladies at Teas Nurseries who bragged about the music!" She was drawn to us by the friendliness of the congregation, our worship/music and ministerial staff, and our location. Nancy has a son, daughter, and one grandson who do not reside in Texas. She has been visiting us since 2015 and has gotten so involved with Presbyterian Women, Chancel Guild and memorial receptions that she felt it was time to transfer. At St Philip, she is also interested in the Peacekeeping and Social Justice Committee and anything related to healthcare and visitation.

COLLECTING ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS BOXES

The Seafarer's Christmas Box program is a mission of the Houston International Seafarer's Center, located at the Port of Houston. Congregations from the Houston area pack personal items that sailors use every day in empty shoe boxes and wrap them with Christmas paper. The boxes are delivered to the Seafarer's Center, then personally taken to the ships by the Port Chaplains. In 2016, 11,876 wrapped boxes were delivered to over 500 ships. Members of these crews traveled from 65 different countries. The seafarers greatly cherish these gifts. Sometimes on board the ships for many months at a time, away from their families, a personal touch of a gift is so important to these sailors. Your donations of the items listed below will help to ease the loneliness and let them know that they are cared for. The items will be packed after Thanksgiving (date TBA), by the loving hands of St. Philip members. Collection boxes will be in the Gathering Area and in the church office for donations.

Empty Adult Shoe Boxes

Knitted Caps
Address Books
Band Aids
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Dental Floss
Deodorant
Deodorant Soap
Gold Bond Powder
Lip Balm

Q-tips
Shampoo
Hotel Samples
Disposable Razors
Shaving Cream
Combs
Nail Clippers
Small Kleenex Packs
Sewing Kits
Gum
Hard Candy

Popcorn (microwave)
Hot Chocolate (mix)
USB Flash Drive
Pens
Mechanical Pencils
Paper Clips
Rubber Bands
Playing Cards
Pocket-sized Notebooks
Texas Souvenirs
Sudoku Puzzles

Word Searches
Key Chains
Baseball Caps
Socks
Wash Cloths

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

INTRODUCING
THE NEW APP
My ST. PHILIP

Dear Friends,

The summer season is upon us. There will be much coming and going with the St. Philip community. This month I'm especially looking forward to participating in the Worship and Music Conference sponsored by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) at the Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina. This is an annual conference that brings together over a thousand adults, youth, and children to explore and develop gifts for music and worship. The day is filled with services and rehearsals, workshops and lectures. The conference has two sessions, each a week long.

The conference director is David Eicher, who was the editor for our new *Glory to God* hymnal and who led a hymn festival at St. Philip in 2012. Other faculty members include Jane Bentley, who is leading our St. Philip Mo-Ranch retreat this week. I am the conference preacher. My responsibilities include preaching every day, Sunday through Friday, then repeating those sermons the second week. I'll also participate in the worship reflections panel and lead a preaching seminar. The conference theme is "Then Sings My Soul," which is drawn from the hymn, "How Great Thou Art." Our thematic scripture passage is from Romans 8 and the affirmation that nothing can separate us from God's love. Each of the services in the week seeks to explore different aspects of this promise:

We begin Sunday night with an Advent service centered on the love of God enfleshed in a child whose very name, Emmanuel, is a proclamation of good news: God is with us. The sermon text is Matthew 1:18-25.

On Monday, we celebrate God's claim on our lives, vividly and decisively demonstrated in the waters of baptism. Through water and the Holy Spirit, God has called us by name and united us with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sermon text is Isaiah 43:1-7.

We journey on the road to Emmaus on Tuesday (Luke 24:13-35), discovering the companionship of Christ in places we least expected to find it. The promise of Easter is that Christ is with us, always.

On Wednesday, we lift our eyes to the future God is preparing when all will be right and all will be well. In that time, God will be close enough to dry every tear. Suffering will be no more. Death will be no more. The heavens and the earth will be renewed. The sermon text is Revelation 21:1-6.

Worship on Thursday acknowledges that as we wait for the fullness of God's redemption, pain and sorrow remain regular features of life. Yet even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us, tending us like a shepherd and reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. In this sermon, I reflect on the conference theme passage, Romans 8:31-39.

Our week of worship concludes Friday with the charge Jesus has given us to make disciples of all nations, to share the gospel in word and deed and to bear witness to God's saving love (Matthew 28:16-20). It is the joyful work of ministry that we share with one another. As we receive this great commission, we also receive the great promise of our Lord, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Session One begins Sunday, **June 18**. Session Two concludes Friday, **June 30**. If you'd like to see more of what the conference is about, visit <http://presbysmusic.org/montreat.html>. As a participant and occasionally as a faculty member, I've been involved with PAM conferences for some fifteen years and have gained much from them in terms of my understanding of worship and my practice of worship leadership. I expect that learning will continue at Montreat this summer – and, I suspect, at least some of it will find its way back to St. Philip!

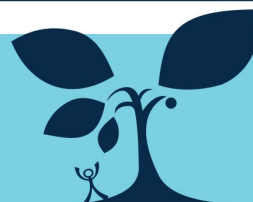
Faithfully yours,



WELCOMING VISITORS

While summer is a time when many of us are away, it's also prime time for church visitors as people move to Houston and seek a new church home. This year, the usual seasonal surge has been augmented by a good number of folks visiting us as a result of transitions underway at some of the Presbyterian churches in our city. All of this means that we have lots of new faces among us as we gather for Sunday worship. Please be attentive to the newcomers in our midst, introduce yourself to them, and introduce them to others, including the pastors. It's also especially helpful if we have contact information from them, so make sure that our visitors have a chance to write in the friendship folder. Let us all do what we can to welcome those worshipping with us, reflecting the welcome God has extended to us all in Jesus Christ.

**WE CHOOSE
WELCOME**



ST PHILIP
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The St. Philip Family at Events in May/June



COMMUNITY



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H



FELLOWSHIP



Dear Friends,

What a time it has been! As I sit in my office and reflect on the past two weeks, I smile with great joy and deep gratitude for the opportunities I have had to worship and celebrate with two very special communities, Gates Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY and St. Philip.

On Sunday, May 28, I was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Gates, the church where I was baptized as an infant, confirmed as a teen, and shaped and cared for in so many ways over the last thirty-two years. Participating in that service were the Rev. Bob Kaiser, the pastor who baptized me in 1985 (in the same sanctuary and at the same font!), the Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge, the associate pastor who shepherded me through Confirmation and led youth ministry during my formative years at Gates, and the Rev. John Wurster, the pastor with whom I now serve. Other participants in the service of ordination included those currently serving in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley; members and liaisons to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the Stated Clerk and the Presbytery's Moderator; other worship leaders included a former youth group advisor, friends from Harvard Divinity School, a choir mate from high school and Greg. Elder Tom Ward, who presented me with a stole on behalf of the congregation, participated in the Commission, as well. Ever since my first experience "preaching" in 1999, Tom has called me "Reverend Omar."

It was an absolutely wonderful afternoon. The sanctuary that has been for me a place of spiritual nourishment for decades was filled with so many loved ones traveling from near and far, a beloved community which was a source of great joy and love that day. My parents and siblings were there, my godparents, Sunday School teachers and youth group advisors, childhood and college friends, relatives and family friends, church family and all the saints who have cared for me and encouraged me along the journey of faith in so many ways. We sang hymns and heard anthems that have long moved me; we read scriptures that have long sustained me; we offered prayers that strengthened us all. We broke bread and shared the cup, symbols of unity, grace and love – and the spirit that filled that sanctuary was unmistakable and unforgettable. As I sat in the pew, I was able to take in so much - everything from the beloved, unique clinker bricks of that sanctuary and its massive, hanging wooden cross, to the beautiful flowers offered on the occasion to the glory of God, a special gift of my St. Philip family.

Although a week has passed, I still remember the feelings in my heart, at once full and still, as the gathered community worshipped that day through song, scripture and prayer and as I answered the Constitutional Questions. I recall the sense that I was truly being called and led. I am filled with gladness and am moved to share the feelings of love, support and belonging that were extended through the laying on of hands that afternoon.

Unfortunately, we could not sing all the hymns that I would have loved to include that day. But I am still called to share words from the song "Pass it On," from the Methodist hymnal, one I fondly remember singing as a child growing up at Gates particularly during our church family camping weekends:

‘It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around, can warm up in its glowing.
That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it.
You spread God’s love to everyone, you want to pass it on.’

As I begin this season of ordained ministry, with gratitude for my many years at Gates Presbyterian Church, and with a thankful heart strengthened by the all the places the journey of faith have taken me, I seek to pass along the love of God through ministry with you, my friends at St. Philip.

With gratitude and joy,




EVERYONE LOVES THEIR PETS!

Submitted by Vicki McKay



All pets need a collar and leash, but for some poorer communities it is just too costly to spend money on a collar or leash for your pet, so they use ropes, chains or even on old belt – whatever is handy. Even if it isn't really safe for the animal! The people in Mexico find themselves in this situation where spending money on collars and leashes is just not possible.

My friend Diana Morrow relocated to Mexico for retirement three years ago and has been helping local veterinarians each month when they do FREE Spay and Neuter clinics for the local community. At the clinics they replace the ropes, chains and belts with a proper leash and collar when they bring in their pets. The local people have been very appreciative of the leashes and collars they have been given. The animals love it too! However, now they are in need of more collars and leashes, and we can help by sending more supplies!

If you are in the mood to buy your own pet new accessories then recycle the old. Please bring any used or new collars or leashes you would like to donate to the church June 18 through July 23 and put in the donation box in the Gathering Area or office. Any size collars or leashes are welcomed. Vicki McKay will send them to Diana in Mexico to help the pet clinic and insure the safety of pets everywhere. This is a unique mission opportunity, but one where we can make a difference. Questions contact Vicki at chimpchamp@hotmail.com.



It takes 700 volunteers to make Back-To-School a success! You can contribute your time and energy to this worthy cause or help inspire others to volunteer.

LOCATION: Faith Lutheran Church, 4600 Bellaire Blvd @ Ave. B (just inside Loop 610).

- ✎ Sort & Set-up: July 29—7:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.—Help prep and organize supplies.
- ✎ Distribution: August 4 & 5—7:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.—Help distribute school supplies, vouchers and “bonus items” to clients.

Questions? Contact Cathy Brown Youth Services Manager at 713-961-3993 ext. 215 or seasonal@ccshouston.org.

OPERATION IMPACT 2017 IS COMPLETE!

Thank you to the IMpact team that helped pick up and deliver supplies the weekend of June 3 and 4. Our team efficiently picked up supplies for 74 homebound seniors, which included a case of water and a box of ready-to-eat meals for each of these seniors. A total of 50 St. Philippians, 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, Don Davis, Patrick Ball, Rev. Keatan King, Ruthie and Al Waldrop, Amye and Joseph Webster, Ed and Janet Hess, Jeromy, Lori, and Rowan Murphy, McNair, Bruce, and Bennett Johnson, Mary McGuire, Anne and Butch Wilson, John and Pat Lindsay, Todd and Phoebe Murphy, Larry Wright, Paul and Nick Arlinghaus, Caleb Han, Guy and Laura Aldrich, John Lemen, Angelina Fonseca, Gage Grewal, Diana Weiss, Tim and Laura Burgess, Katie and Jamie Hannan, Christ Rubenstein, Henry and Emily Owen, Claudia Pezzia, Jason and Jessie Griffin, Julia Fox, Angela and Evan Fulcher, Jessie and Walker Fair, Kevin and Kate Varner and Jenny Towns

Thanks for your help!

PRIMETIMERS

ATTENTION, PRIME-TIMERS! On Monday, **July 10**, we will visit the Brookwood Community in Brookshire, Texas, exploring parts of its beautiful campus, which is home to adults with disabilities and is famous for its horticulture (our Christmas poinsettias and Easter Lilies come from Brookwood) and lovely ceramics. Following the morning tour, lasting approximately one hour and fifteen minutes, we will enjoy lunch in the Brookwood Café. The tour is free, but each participant pays for lunch. There will also be plenty of time to visit the Gift and Garden Center. Please be at the church parking lot by 8:30 AM, departing promptly at 8:40 AM. This promises to be a most enjoyable outing, both educational and inspirational. Please sign up by contacting the church office (713-622-4807) by Monday, **June 26**.

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 Clearing House, 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 Clearing House and soon handed the reins over to Mrs. Davis. Eventually upon John's death the church named it the John Blow Clearing House. 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

We are always looking for new volunteers to serve breakfast to the homeless, 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.

Thank you to the congregation for their generous contributions to the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) in May. The special communion offering raised \$1,017 which will be used to combat hunger and other community needs. CCSC is one of our largest mission commitments, and was started by Central Presbyterian Church. We proudly continue their support!



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!

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS


The next service of healing and wholeness will be **June 25**. 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

SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MONTREAT

This summer, Senior High students at St. Philip are going to Montreat for the Senior High Youth Conference from July 21-31, 2017. The Conference is July 23-30, and the extra days are for driving to and from Montreat, during which time we will complete a Spiritual Pilgrimage through the South, together with Sr. High youth of St. Thomas Presbyterian Church in Houston.

Many among us are deeply concerned by a political climate of intolerance, racism, and violence that is threatening to undo so much of the progress accomplished by the Civil Rights movement. Thus, we are embarking on a Spiritual Pilgrimage through the South to teach youth about the dark history of racial oppression in the South; to study the brave individuals and congregations who furthered the Civil Rights movement as an expression of their Christian faith; and to pursue the work of reconciliation and repentance that God is still calling forth.

To accomplish this, we will combine prayer, education, and conversation around "holy sites" of the South which have played a role in the Civil Rights movement. Our goal is to empower youth to be active participants in racial reconciliation efforts in America, and especially, catalysts for this conversation and work in the Church.

As of now, we have some really exciting people and places incorporated into this trip! David LaMotte (singer/songwriter and peacemaker) will spend an evening with us at Montreat. Former PC(USA) Moderator Heath Rada will hold an evening conversation with us at Montreat, also! Current Co-Moderator of the PC(USA), Denise Anderson, is particularly committed to our project and wants to engage with our group because we are using some of her materials on race and the Church, a video series titled "Love an Other." Denise wants to Skype with our group before the trip to help them prepare. And on our trip, we plan to visit the following places:

- ✂ Baton Rouge: visit with Together Baton Rouge (a community organization fighting racial inequality) and the Whitney Plantation
- ✂ Birmingham: the Civil Rights Institute and 16th Street Baptist Church (the church bombed in 1963)
- ✂ Atlanta: Ebenezer Baptist Church and the King Center
- ✂ Selma: walking the Pettus Bridge together

In addition to these destinations we are gathering a collection of readings, videos, music, sermons, and poetry by civil rights' leaders, artists, pastors, and peacemakers for reflection. Beyond the pilgrimage, there will be an expectation that our group share with the wider church the ways in which this experience has transformed them, allowing them to deepen their leadership skills in the church and strengthen their sense that they can effect change. Upon their return, youth will share their experiences through writing for the congregation, leading presentations, and serving in worship to lift up their experiences with gratitude for the whole body at the congregational and Presbyterian levels.

To date, we have seven St. Philip youth (Eleanor Kimbro, Chelsea Chilewa, Anne Johnson, Phoebe Murphy, Margaret Fair, George White, Zack White) and two adults (Keatan King and Omar Rouchon) signed up for the trip. We have three St. Thomas youth (Braden Mwuara, Darlene Moreno, Alyssa Rossen) signed up and one adult, Rev. Jonathon Britt.

WHY A PILGRIMAGE?

"The two disciples heard [John proclaim Jesus the Lamb of God]...and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi, where are you staying?' Jesus said to them, '*Come and see.*'" (Jn. 1:37-39)

"[When Jesus learned that Lazarus died] he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, '*Lord, come and see.*' Jesus began to weep." (Jn. 11:34-35)

Come and see. This is the invitation continuously woven through the gospel of John, which seems to be suggesting that some things can only be known through journey and witness. "Come and see" is a refrain exchanged between Jesus and disciples, the woman at the well and her neighbors, and finally, Lazarus' friends and Jesus. In this gospel, it is Jesus who first issues the invitation to "come and see" who he is, how he abides, and ultimately, what the very meaning of his life is. Eventually, it is the people Jesus seeks to cure, save, and love who return his invitation back to him at the death of Lazarus. "Lord, come and see" they say, when Jesus asks where the body of his friend rests. This is still the Church's persistent prayer: Lord, come and see. Lord, come and see our suffering. Come and see our desperation. Come and see our brokenness. And how does our Lord reply? Jesus weeps.

Jonathon Britt, Omar Rouchon, and I share the belief of St. John; some things can only be known through journey and witness. Or as a beloved former Director of Field Education at Louisville Seminary used to say, "It is not enough to profess. We have to practice. It is not enough to talk. We have to do. It is not enough to say, "Ain't it awful." *We have to get close enough to get hurt.*"

On a pilgrimage, we follow Jesus' invitation to "come and see" where he dwells in our neighbor, in the broader church beyond our walls, and in our nation's history. On a pilgrimage, we pray, "Lord, come and see" and lift to him the sin and violence of the world, petitioning him for peace and new life. On a pilgrimage, we learn from one another and listen to God's Spirit which still calls us to "come and see" all that is still possible for the healing of the world.

We will make this pilgrimage because it is our abiding hope that such a trip will profoundly transform the faith of our youth and forever shape their sense of their own discipleship and citizenship.

Submitted by Keatan King



RACISM IN THE U.S.

Submitted by the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee

Racism, as we are reminded daily in news reports across the U.S., remains a huge concern in our country. The P & SJ Committee takes seriously a responsibility to highlight such issues to our congregation. Accordingly, we provide below a few book selections (a few out of many!):

- Alexander, Michele. [The New Jim Crow](#).
- Berman, Ari. [Give Us the Ballot: the modern struggle for voting rights in America](#).
- Blankenship, Anne. [Christianity, Social Justice, and the Japanese American incarceration during World War II](#).
- Cone, James. [The Cross and the Lynching Tree](#). A landmark in the conversation about race and religion in America.
- Coates, Ta-Nahesi. [Between the World and Me](#). Recommended by Greg Han. A series of essays confronting the notion of racism in America and how it has shaped our history.
- Desmond, Matthew. [Evicted: poverty and profit in the American city](#).
- Dyson, Michael E. [Tears We Cannot Stop](#).
- Irving, Debby. [Waking Up White](#). The author describes her evolving awareness of her own subtle racism. This book is now the study selection of the Monday Evening Study Group.
- Noah, Timothy. [The Great Divergence: America's growing inequality crisis and what we can do about it](#).
- Wise, Tim. [White Like Me](#). Race and racism is explored through the lens of whiteness and white privilege.
- Wilkerson, Isobel. [The Warmth of Other Suns](#). Describes the "great migration" of people struggling to live as citizens in their own country.
- And, of course, [To Kill a Mockingbird](#), by Harper Lee, [Race Matters](#), by Cornell West, [The Fire Next Time](#), by James Baldwin, and anything by Maya Angelou, and many others.....



YOUTH FAST RESULTS

During their 30-Hour Youth Fast, the youth raised \$1,800.00 for the CCSC Food Pantry. On Friday evening, we harvested over 12 bags of produce from the community garden. On Saturday morning, we delivered the produce to the CCSC

Food Pantry and got a tour of the facility in action. Youth spent their Lock-In time fasting, praying, learning about poverty and hunger in our nation, worshipping, and serving to fight hunger. Our time was filled with educational games, Bible study, prayer, conversation, and 2 mission projects.

Participants include: Sasha Arlinghaus, Margaret Fair, Shirley Ann Frautschi, Lily Frautschi, Mary Mac Johnson, Elizabeth Junkin, Lily Maguire, Phoebe Murphy, Charlotte Murphy, and Molly Vestal.



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 ARE ON RECESS FOR THE SUMMER

BELOW IS A SAMPLING OF WHAT YOU HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

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 (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.

CHURCH & SOCIETY - Room 201- Church & Society will resume classes on Rally Day, Sept. 10 with a class reunion and preview of the presentations for the fall semester.

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

PW CIRCLES

The Presbyterian Women have concluded the 2016-17 Bible Study; circles will resume in September.

Wednesday Evening Circle is meeting on Wednesday, **June 14** at 6:30 pm for a Movie Night, at the Fair's home. Contact Jessie for more details.

The Wednesday Evening Circle will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month in **June, July, and August**. It will return to the first Wednesday of the month in September.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

PUB CLUB !!!New Men's Group!!!

Pub Club is a new group for men in the church who like to enjoy fellowship, stories and spirited discussion once a month at a local pub. Pub Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. Our first gathering is Tuesday, **June 27** at 7 p.m. at Coaches Pub at 2204 Louisiana St. Men interested in attending may eat beforehand or order food from the pub. For more information or questions please contact Tim Burgess at TimRB1987@gmail.com.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus) **June 12** 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 29 (Intent and impact) through 33 (Perception and fear). 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.

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.

RETURNING IN THE FALL

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

In the **fall** join John Wurster as he leads a bible-based discussion. The class meets at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday in the Dining Room.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Men of all ages are welcome to participate in the self-led group, the Men's Weekly Fellowship each Friday. They meet in the Conference Room at noon. The men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. The group wraps up promptly at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Robert Estill if you have any questions.

Session Highlights

May 2017

Called Session Meeting – May 21st

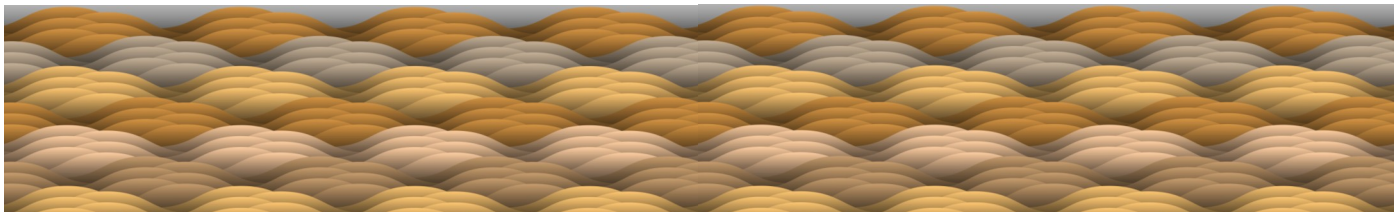
- Session received into membership: Nancy M. Higgs by letter of transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3208 Exposition Blvd., Austin, TX 78703

Stated Session Meeting – May 16th

- Session approved converting the present Sunday Visitor Parking Spaces to Limited Mobility Parking.
- Session returned the motion to replace the porte-cochère with a covered structure that would accommodate two vehicle lengths and two vehicle widths, plus height sufficient to allow vans, back to the Property Committee with a request for more specific cost information.
- Session affirmed the need for expanded limited mobility parking spaces and instructed the Moderator to form a task force to address the issue.
- Session approved transfers of April 2017 Property Committee expenses to Reserve for Replacement totaling \$848.80.
- Session approved allocating \$8,177 of Stewardship Committee costs for the new phone system to the Reserve for Replacement account.
- Session set single services of worship at 11:00 a.m. on May 14, June 4 and **June 11**.
- Session acted to extend an invitation to the Reverend Emily Owen to be guest preacher on **June 11**.
- Session retroactively approved the submittal of the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grant proposal that was made on April 30, 2017.
- Session approved proposed revisions to the Personnel Committee Responsibilities and Personnel Policies sections of the Manual of Operations for St. Philip Presbyterian Church.
- Session endorsed Margaret Fair, Caleb Hann, and Elizabeth Junkin, to serve with Keatan King on the Presbytery of New Covenant Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC).

Committee and Council Actions:

- Property Committee has denied a building use request from another German School (2-5 years age, 9-hour, 5-day a week, school year for two rooms).
- Property Committee has approved a policy decision not to entertain requests from outside programs for use of rooms which St. Philip utilizes intermittently during the week, and has authorized Lorrie Castle to decline such requests in future without sending them to the Property Committee.
- Stewardship Committee has approved the replacement of the church's antiquated telephone system, at the lowest bid cost of \$8,177.
- Mission Committee has acted to renew membership in the Interfaith Ministries Circle, at \$250/year.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Craig Hill & family upon the death of his mother, Louise Hill.
 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
 Barbara Rathgeber—receiving dialysis
 Barbara Cloninger—at Home Sweet Home Hospice Care in Katy
 Forbes Baker—continuing to receive cancer treatment
 Steve Smith—Shelley Smith's brother receiving cancer treatment
 Diane Boddington Nahajzer—Laura Burgess' aunt receiving cancer treatment
 Barry McCarthy—friend of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo recovering from a stroke
 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