



Dear Friends,

The *Book of Confessions* is the first part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I like to think of it as a theological scrapbook showing how the church has given voice to its faith over the centuries. The first two documents in the book come from the earliest days of the church. “The Apostles’ Creed” and “The Nicene Creed” are foundational affirmations of core Christian doctrines, including the triune identity of God and the incarnation of God in the person of Jesus. The next three documents in the *Book of Confessions* are from the period of the Protestant Reformation in Europe, a period which birthed our particular flavor of Christianity – Presbyterianism. “The Scots Confession” (from Scotland), “The Heidelberg Catechism” (Germany), and “The Second Helvetic Confession” (Switzerland) all give voice to the primary Protestant themes of “grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone.” These themes are continued in three documents from the Reformation in England: “The Westminster Confession of Faith,” “The Shorter Catechism,” and “The Larger Catechism.” These three were especially significant in the development of Presbyterian faith in the American colonies and, in time, the United States. There are three documents in the *Book of Confessions* from the twentieth century. “The Theological Declaration of Barmen” is a radical statement of ultimate loyalty to Christ that was formulated during the Nazi period in Germany. “The Confession of 1967” was written in the United States and focused on the theme of reconciliation during a period of social turbulence. “A Brief Statement of Faith” was also written in the United States. It was occasioned by the reunion of the northern and southern Presbyterian churches in 1983, a division dating back to the Civil War.

These eleven documents have comprised the *Book of Confessions* for the twenty-five years that I have been ordained. Last month, however, a new confession was added to the book, “The Confession of Belhar.” This confession was written thirty years ago during the apartheid period in South Africa. It is the only confession in the book that originated in the global south and makes a strong claim for unity in Christ and for the ongoing pursuit of justice. The process of amending the *Book of Confessions* is intentionally difficult and lengthy, requiring approval of two General Assemblies and two-thirds of our presbyteries. Belhar received its final General Assembly approval at the meeting in Portland, Oregon a few weeks ago. At the meeting, Godfrey Betha of the United Reformed Church in Southern Africa was invited to speak after the vote and said: “Your decision affirms that, like those other historic standards of faith, the Belhar Confession transcends its historic circumstances as a standard for faith in all places and times. Your decision affirms that Belhar does speak against ideological and theological attempts to justify specific historical forms of injustice. Your decision affirms to your church, [and] to all, when you come looking for the demon of racism, don’t come to us.”

We have been using excerpts from Belhar in our worship this summer as the affirmation of faith. I find that the words of this confession resonate strongly with the passages from the prophets that the lectionary is presenting as our weekly Scripture lesson. The confession also voices a theological response to the issues of racism and violence that have been especially before us this summer. You can see the whole text of Belhar at [http://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.pdf). Of course, it will also be available in the next printing of the *Book of Confessions* later this year.

Among other things, the documents in the *Book of Confessions* remind us that faith is always developing and always seeking fresh expression in particular times and places. While there is an historical sweep to our faith, there is also an immediate relevance as the Word takes flesh among us here and now. Eventually, we will add further documents to the *Book of Confessions* because a living church requires an ever-expanding scrapbook.

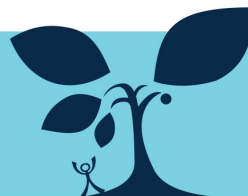
Faithfully yours,



## 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

## 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!*

### SUMMER READING

For the Sundays in July, John Wurster and Deb Burks are leading a class exploring contemporary literature and the life of faith. The class is reading 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 meets at 9:30 in the Dining Room and continues **through the end of the month.**

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

**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.



Worship at Junior High Jubilee –Mo-Ranch: Fiona Murphy, Joseph Webster, Claire Steward, Molly Vestal and Keatan King

## WEEKDAY STUDIES

### MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus) **July 25** 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 8, "On the road with Paul of Tarsus." 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

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 **August 11** at the home of Sue Shirley Howard. We will discuss *Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman. 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.**

- TONIGHT:** 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 **July 27** 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 *Spindletop* on **July 30** at noon. The address is 10622 Hirsch Rd, Houston, TX 77016 . Check your inbox for more details soon.



## SUMMER TIME WITH ST. PHILIP

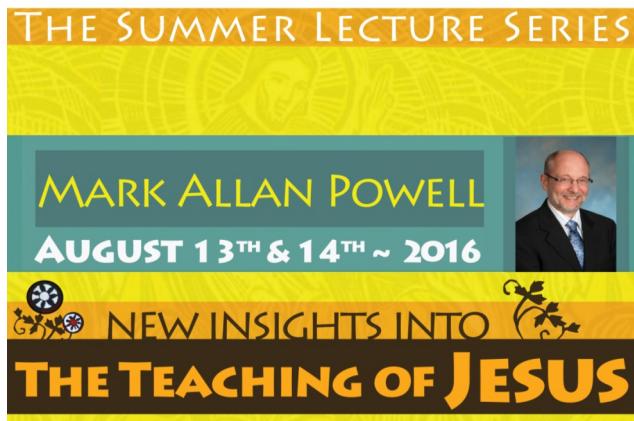
### PRIMETIMERS

On **Monday, July 25**, the Primetimers will take a guided tour of Houston's African American Library at the Gregory School. The tour will include exhibits on historic neighborhoods and figures in Houston's history, as well as "Sunday Go To Meeting," a special exhibit on the history of church hats in Houston. Following the visit to the library, we will visit the Lost Lake of Buffalo Bayou Park and have lunch at The Dunlavy. There is no cost for the tour, but participants are responsible for their lunch. Participants will need to be at the church office by 9 a.m.

You may contact Omar Rouchon with any questions. Reservations are closed, but please don't hesitate to add your name in case someone cancels.

### 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.

## SAVE THE DATE

### 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).

### ATTENTION: St. Philip Presbyterian Women

2016-2017 Horizons Bible Study Guides, "Who is Jesus? What Difference a Lens Makes" will be available for purchase (\$9.00 ) after the 11:00 worship service.

Presbyterian Women of New Covenant invite you to an overview of the 2016-2017 Horizons Bible Study: *Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*. Mary Marcotte, Associate General Presbyter of New Covenant, will lead the free overview on five dates between **July 29** and **August 27** at different locations. See the flyer: [Who is Jesus?](#) for dates and details including whom to contact for registration

- Friday, **July 29** First Presbyterian Church in Pasadena 4647 Preston Road, Pasadena 77505 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 noon: Register with Sue Clark at 713-946-3608 or email Melba Slaven at [ddsmls@aol.com](mailto:ddsmls@aol.com)
- Saturday, **August 6** First Presbyterian Church in Lufkin 607 Jane Way, Lufkin 75904 11:30 a.m.: Registration; noon -1 p.m.: Lunch (no charge); 1-3 p.m.: Overview: Register with JoAnn Koenecke at 936-366-2378 or email the church office at [fpc@consolidated.net](mailto:fpc@consolidated.net)
- Friday, **August 19** at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Beaumont 1350 N. 23rd St., Beaumont 77706 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon: Register with Holly in church office at 409-892-8611 ext. 100 or [holly@saintandy.org](mailto:holly@saintandy.org)
- Saturday, **August 20** at First Presbyterian Church in Navasota 302 Nolan St., Navasota 77868 09:45 a.m.: Registration, followed by overview (10a.m) and lunch. Register with church office at 936-825-6847 or [fpcnavasota@embarqmail.com](mailto:fpcnavasota@embarqmail.com) (office open Tues., Wed., Thurs.)
- Saturday, **August 27** at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Houston 2525 N. Gessner, Houston 77080 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon: Register with Debbie at 713-462-5448 or [johnknoxhouston@gmail.com](mailto:johnknoxhouston@gmail.com)



**Presby Pro will return in August**

**WHAT'S GROWING IN THE ST. PHILIP GARDEN?**

With the summer heat in full force, things are winding down for the season in our vegetable garden. The tomatoes, both the cherry tomatoes and the large ones, are just about played out, but what a season we had! We harvested about 150 pounds of tomatoes from April through July! Add to that 40 pounds or more of bell peppers, jalapenos, cucumbers, yellow squash, eggplants, lettuce, collards, and mustard greens, and you can see God's bounty on display in our little patch of urban garden. The clients at the CCSC Food Pantry were always happy to see our volunteers come in with fresh vegetables to add to the staple foods they received. We might have had even more produce for the food pantry, but some critters (probably possums or raccoons) liked our tomatoes and melons, too. We figure there is enough bounty for all.

Through the heat of the summer, we'll continue to get a few eggplants and peppers, but things will be pretty quiet except for the sweet potatoes vines, which will grow until we harvest the sweet potatoes late in the fall. We'll also be planting fall-winter veggies once it cools down in a few months. If you'd like to know more about the St. Philip garden project or would like to volunteer, please contact the church office or Cathy Patterson.



**IN OUR PRAYERS**

- Toto McGehee—recovering at Bayou Manor Healthcare from pacemaker surgery
- Don DeCamp—Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin's friend who has metastatic prostate cancer
- Candace Demary's parents, Wayne & Peggy Bourque, coping with health issues in Lake Charles; Wayne has been moved to hospice care
- Karen & Bill Morris's nephew Jason in Virginia, diagnosed with Stage IV colorectal cancer
- Cathy Truxillo—Wayne & Sandra Truxillo's sister-in-law who is receiving treatment for congestive heart failure
- Lorraine Lyter-Reed's brothers: Martin is recovering from amputation; Leland – ongoing cancer treatment
- T.E. Keever – Hallmark Healthcare Center
- Joe Anne Berwick—residing at Belmont
- Pat Clark—treatment at MD Anderson
- Larry Dean—Seven Acres
- Carolyn Vestal—cancer treatments

**Recuperating at Home**

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Sue Baier        | Mark Clemmons   |
| Jan Conner       | Helen Harris    |
| Kathryn Harwood  | Malcolm Host    |
| Rusty Howard     | Jo Jones        |
| Alice Pennington | Paul Pennington |
| Sondra Sullivan  | Penny Vieau     |
| Ruth Weber       |                 |

**JOIN THE RECYCLING TEAM**

Did you know that your Sunday bulletin does not end up adding to the landfill? At St. Philip, a small team of dedicated volunteers picks up bulletins and other paper waste generated here at the church and takes it to our home recycling bins or the recycling center. It's one way we as a congregation can help care for God's creation. Would you like to be a part of the team? We are always happy to add new volunteers. If you would like to be part of the St. Philip Recyclers, please contact the church office.

**CURTIS UPDATE**



You may have noticed that our friend Curtis Wyatt hasn't been around the campus recently. On June 27 he was hit by a car on Westheimer and was taken to Memorial Hermann SW where he had surgery on his left arm. After a five-day hospital stay and several days of not having a place to sleep, St. Philip has been able to arrange care for Curtis at Harmony House,

602 Girard St.. There a caseworker has been assigned to him and will help in getting him an ID, Social Security disability, a mental health evaluation, a skills assessment, and will assist Curtis in setting goals for himself and work to attain them. He can stay at Harmony House for up to a year.

A sincere thank-you to those of you who have supported St. Philip's endeavors to help Curtis with everything from connections to clothes, including food and money. At last he has what he has wanted: a bed and a place to call home. If you would like to visit Curtis or call him contact Lorrie in the office. If you would like to know more about Harmony House visit their website at [www.harmonyhouse.org](http://www.harmonyhouse.org)



To the left: Taking a break on John Wurster's bench.  
Below: There is nothing better than jumping into the cold Guadalupe River on a HOT summer day!





### Excerpt from Thank You Letter from Presbyterian Pan American School:

The Presbyterian Pan American School Board of Trustees, along with our faculty and staff, send you our sincerest thanks for your generous gift.



Your support allows us to provide a holistic education that prepares our students for college and a lifetime of Christian leadership. In addition to a core academic curriculum, Pan Am provides programs that include spiritual formation as well as a variety of leadership, athletic and other extra-curricular activities. In May, we celebrated the graduation of this year's senior class. Our 47 graduates will be attending colleges and universities that include Schreiner University, The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, as well as universities in the graduates' home countries.

Now that the new Harte Student Center is complete, we are converting the Perry Reed Dining Hall into a student recreation building. The renovated Perry Reed building will be used for student meetings, movies, and dances, as well as an extra classroom. We are excited to have this new space available to give our students an even richer campus life experience.

In early June, tornadoes struck Kleberg County, and the new Harte Student Center was used by the Red Cross to shelter county residents whose homes had been severely damaged. We are truly blessed to have this new facility which serves our students so well and can also be used to help our local community.

The entire Pan Am community joins me in being grateful for your thoughtful gift. Please know how much we are blessed by your prayers and generosity.

Signed by *Dr. Doug Dalglisch, President*

## **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!

## **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 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

### 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 1:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m.

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)