

# PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 60, Number 13

**Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster**  
Pastor, Head of Staff

**Rev. Keatan King**  
Associate Pastor

**Omar Rouchon**  
Ministry Associate

**Dr. Randall Swanson**  
Director of Music

**Dr. Matthew Dirst**  
Organist

**Lorrie Castle**  
Office Manager

**Denise Ferrell**  
Bookkeeper

**Micah Meyers**  
Art Director

**Wilbert Parada**  
Facilities Supervisor

**Dimas Parada**  
Custodian

**Lorrie Castle**  
Newsletter Editor  
[Philipeye@saintphilip.net](mailto:Philipeye@saintphilip.net)

**Susan Estill**  
Editor Emerita



[www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)  
yelp: [icons] @StPhilipHouston  
**STAY CONNECTED!**

Houston, Texas

July 5, 2016

## 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!

## WE CHOOSE WELCOME

Refugees, By the Numbers

Did you know that there are over 60 million people around the world who are forcibly displaced persons? The United Nations High Commission on Refugees estimates that 63.5 million people have been driven from their homes due to violence, conflict, and/or persecution; about half of these are children. Just over 16 million of these displaced persons are officially designated as refugees who can be resettled by the UN. Less than 1% of the world's refugees were approved for resettlement in another country in 2015. From October 2015 to May 2016, about 40,000 refugees were resettled in the United States; of these, just under 10% came to Texas, arriving from 34 different countries, including Syria. The largest number came from Burma. The greater Houston area will welcome over 2000 refugees from all over the world in 2016.

What can we do? We can

Pray for refugees and their safety

- + Support agencies that assist refugees, like Interfaith Ministries Refugee Services
- + Donate household goods for refugees being resettled here in Houston
- + Practice welcome: "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)



## 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!*



### 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)

### SUMMER READING

For the 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 continues **July 10**.

**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 Monday, July 11, at 5:30 p.m., we continue our discussion of Harvey Cox's book *How to Read the Bible*, with chapter 7, "Looking over the shoulders of the writers: Matthew, Mark, and Luke." Besides conversation, our meetings include light food and drink, fellowship, and a brief prayer. We meet each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus).

### 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 Molina's Cantina, 4720 Old Katy Rd, 77007 (Washington Ave). 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 **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 *Spindletap* 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 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. Please call the church office by **Sunday, July 17** to reserve a spot.

### 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 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.

## 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 beginning **July 10**.

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 overviews on five dates between **July 29** and **August 27** at different locations. See the flyer: [Who is Jesus?](#) for dates and details including who 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)



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 2016

### Called Session Meeting – June 19<sup>th</sup>

- Session received into membership:
  - Gil Yeong Kim and Oak Kim by letters of transfer from Young Nak Presbyterian Church, Houston
  - Angelina Fonseca by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Bryan
  - Selena Brinegar by letter of transfer from Valley Forge Presbyterian Church, King of Prussia, PA

### Stated Session Meeting – June 21<sup>st</sup>

- Session received into membership Jim and Nadene Crain by letters of transfer from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Houston.
- Session approved an addendum of the Ushers' Manual in the Worship and Music section of the Manual of Operations for St. Philip Presbyterian Church.
- Session approved Mission Committee recommendation to take \$250 from the 2016 Mission Budget's unallocated monies and use it to join the Interfaith Circle with the understanding that next year consider including the Inner Circle membership as part of the total mission budget allocation for Interfaith Ministries.
- Session approved the following recipients of the communion offerings:
  - **November 6** – Institute for Civility (General Election is Tuesday, **November 8**)
  - **December 4** – Christmas Family Program through Kids Meals
  - **December 24** – PC(USA)'s Special Offering, the Joy Offering.
- Session elected Rhonda Sands, Ginny Camfield, Lorraine Lyter-Reed, Kate Crary, and Roderick James to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the **July 16**, Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Covenant at First Presbyterian Church, Orange; and elected Omi Ford and David Castle as alternates.

### Committee Actions:

- The Property Committee has approved final Kitchen Use Policy for re-submission as part of the Operating Manual.
- The Property Committee has approved the Lease Agreement for Absolutely Devine Catering (Kimberley Wright).
- The Property Committee has approved the extension of the current Insurance Policy. Advised updates of Riders for **11/01/16**.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Mary Linda Williams and family upon the death of her father, George H. Sharp, 91 years old, in La Porte, TX

Family & friends of Marion Hargrove who died on June 24

Jody Tomforde whose husband, Mike Tomforde died on June 2, Mike was a charter member of SPPC and a ruling elder

Family of Ramona Heard a member of SPPC since 1978—she died May 22, 2016

Betty Doak—95 year friend of Stephen Payne in Dallas, recovering from a fall and broken shoulder

Curtis Wyatt recovering from broken shoulder

Laura Burgess nephew Matthew, born June 24 in NICU

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

Do you remember long-time former member Lester Dray? Les is continuing on his "march to maturity" (his words) and will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 22. See the article he was recently featured in regarding long living by clicking here [Lester Dray](#). If you would like to reach out to Lester, Contact Lorrie Castle at the church office for more information.



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

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

1. Communion tokens were the parishioners' offering to the church. True or False
2. How many Presbyterians signed the Declaration of Independence??

Bethesda Clinic in Xocenpich, Mexico, received \$1,207.41 as the recipient of the June 5 communion offering. Thank you for your generous contributions to help Dr. Jose Estrella and Dr. Federico Estrella provide medical care in the Yucatan regardless of their patient's ability to pay.  
The Mission Committee



# FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS



**GOOD COFFEE  
FOR A GOOD CAUSE**



**FAIR TRADE  
CHOCOLATES & COCOAS**



**ECO-PALMS**

**SIP BOLDLY! Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee**

Over the last twenty- one years Equal Exchange's impact amongst farmers has grown beyond coffee farmers in a few Central American nations. Today the company buys the coffee, tea, rooibos, cocoa, sugar, and almonds from over 30 co-operatives in 19 countries on 4 continents. More than 90% of the crops are certified organic, and for coffee farmers alone the higher Fair Trade prices paid by Equal Exchange translated into \$8 million in extra income between 2000 and 2006.

On **July 17**, you will have a change to participate in this effort at our congregational coffee sale in the Gathering Area, before and after the 11 a.m. service.

In addition, your purchase of Equal Exchange products supports Presbyterian efforts with small-scale farmers around the world. The funds help to improve the quality, yield and value of crops so that farmers can earn more income to support their families and communities.

Please stop by and check out our coffee, teas, chocolates and olive oil on offer. This being the summer sale we will, of course, have biscotti and iced tea to refresh you!

Battery Recycling!



in the Gathering Area!

<b>LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE</b>	
Financial Update as of 5/31/2016	
Total Revenue	\$394,240
Total Expenses	\$430,413
Revenue over (under) Expenses	\$36,173
Pledges collected	\$270,860
Budget YTD	\$329,000



## 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)

**Keynote Speaker: The Reverend Doctor Cynthia Rigby**

**register online >>**



1. False. Communion tokens were a familiar feature of Presbyterian worship in past centuries. John Calvin suggested that tokens be used "to prevent the profanation of the Lord's Table." A day or more before the communion service, the minister and elders questioned the members of their congregation about their beliefs and behavior. Only those who showed adequate knowledge of the faith and were deemed to be living upright lives received tokens. During the communion service, communicants came forward and sat at long tables where they turned in their tokens and received the elements.
2. 12, one who was a pastor.