

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Volume 58, Number 16

Houston, Texas
18 August 2014

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Judith Northrop
Ministry Associate

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Thomas Goetz
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Laurie Fortenbery
Office Manager
Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper
Micah Meyers
Communications Assistant

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor
Dimas Parada
Custodian
Peter Ramadan
Custodian

Susan Estill
Newsletter Editor
philip-eye@saintphilip.net



Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Sunday School Open House and Rally Day

Mark your calendar for Sunday School Open House and Rally Day, September 7! Classrooms will be open for all ages to drop by and to see what happens in each of them on Sunday mornings. Teachers will be available to provide information about their classes and to answer any questions about their programs.

This is the perfect chance for children and youth to meet their teachers and to become familiar with their classrooms and excited about what they will be learning in the year to come. Information about adult classes will be available. Open House and Rally Day is a welcome home Sunday too for many after a summer of vacation and travel.

Snacks and breakfast foods will be found in various spots around the Education Building, so follow the trail from room to room and explore the great things happening at St. Philip as you catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Annual BBQ

Just as we leave the hottest of the weather behind us (hopefully...), join us as we celebrate with our annual BBQ!

Brisket awaits,
and you
can show off your sub-zero culinary skills in the ice-cream competition (prizes for the best)!

We invite you to bring a side dish.

When and where?
Saturday September 6th (6pm til 8pm)
in the Fellowship Hall.
All are welcome.

A Program of Organ Works by Francisco Correa de Arauxo (1584-1654)

Correa de Arauxo is arguably the greatest composer of Spanish organ music. This recital celebrates the completion of Robert Bates's 5-CD set of recordings of the complete works of this astounding composer, performed on historic organs in Oaxaca, Mexico. The concert at St. Philip will be ordered according to the composer's own levels of difficulty, from the easiest to the some of the most challenging works in the entire organ repertoire. The recital begins with a short lecture by the performer about the composer and the golden age of the arts in Spain. Included will be a discussion of the Christian and Moorish influences that engendered this most exotic creation.

Sunday, August 31 at 6:00 pm.

Lectionary Readings

August 24, 2014
11th Sunday after Pentecost
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 1:8 – 2:10; Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 31, 2014
12th Sunday after Pentecost
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6,23-26,45c
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

September 7, 2014
13th Sunday after Pentecost
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: **Dick Schissler** at Kindred Hospital

Healthcare: **Larry Dean, Frank Donnelly;**
Betty Knepper at Bayou Manor Healthcare,
Bill Litchfield at Village at Meyerland,
Mike Tomforde at Hallmark Healthcare.

Recuperating: **Margaretta Bolding, Pam Keever**

At home: **Al Atkinson, Susan Mitchell, Ralph Cherrillo**

Check These Announcements

The Friday Men's Fellowship is an opportunity for men of all ages to meet and discuss books of interest. Presently you can consider enjoying a novel, *When God Was a Rabbit*, by Sarah Winman (highly recommended by Dr. Johanna Bos, this year's Duerr lecturer). Bring a sack lunch every Friday at Noon to the Conference Room in the church office. The book is available in the church office for \$13.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1 in celebration of Labor Day.

Call for Choral Singers: Interested singers are invited to join the St. Philip Choir at this time. The choir sings at the 11:00 am service each Sunday, and meets Sundays at 10:30 am in the choir room on the second floor of the administration building. Wednesday rehearsals begin September 3, and run from 7:00-9:00 pm. Singers who are new to the choir are asked to please contact Tom Goetz, Director of Music, so that we will have music on hand for you. Email: thomas@saintphilip.net or call the church office. Try it! We think you'll like it!

Handbell Invitation: We are inviting new and experienced ringers to join the St. Philip bell choir, Bell Canto, which will resume its regular rehearsal schedule on Monday, September 8. Rehearsals are held in Room 208 in the music suite each Monday from 7:00 pm until 8:15 pm. We have five octaves of Schulmerich handbells, and a full set of chimes, all requiring a full complement of ringers. Whether you are returning or new to the bells, please contact Director of Music Thomas Goetz via email at thomas@saintphilip.net or call the church office. Bell Canto rings in worship services about once per month during the September-May season. Positions will be assigned to ringers, so it is necessary to sign up as soon as possible. Please call or write Tom if you have any questions.

The Philip-Eye will be published on September 2 (Tuesday), 15 and 29. 10:00 am on the day of publication is the deadline. E-mail to philip-eye@saintphilip.net or leave in the PE box in the mail room.

From Your Pastor:

Dear Friends,

I continue to reflect on Rodger Nishioka's time with us August 9-10 for our Summer Lecture Series. In addition to his powerful proclamation of God's faithfulness in his sermon, "In the Pit," Rodger shared several things I found compelling and insightful for this time in the life of our congregation.

He began his presentation saying that the knowledge of God is constructed communally. We learn about God and grow in our understanding of God in the company of one another. That's why participation in the whole of the church's life is spiritually valuable. Being in a class, serving on a committee, taking part in a choir, a mission project or a fellowship activity are all ways that we deepen our sense of who God is and who we are as God's people. With the fall season right before, there are fresh opportunities to involve ourselves with one another and grow together in the ways of faith, hope, and love.

Rodger also pointed to research indicating that the most significant quality for people in making a decision regarding a church home is warmth – not the music, not the preaching(!), not the programs. A warm congregation is hospitable and open, intentionally noticing newcomers and continually making space for them. Each Sunday we have several visitors to St. Philip (and on some Sundays a lot more than several). Let us do what we can to extend to them a warm welcome, greeting them, introducing them, including them. As Rodger noted, it is easy and natural for us to talk with the people we know when we gather; however, Christian hospitality encourages us to move beyond the familiar and to welcome the strangers in our midst.

Finally, from Rodger's extensive research with young adults, I especially noted the correlation he has discovered between pulling children out of worship and their later participation in the church. Children whose parents regularly worship with them and show them a consistent presentation of Christian faith are much more likely to be in church when they become adults. The necessity of children being in worship for their faith development is something we are giving more attention to. We are trying to expand the elements of the service that can engage children, as well as provide them more age-appropriate activities during worship. I invite all of us to be patient and encouraging, recognizing that there might be some wiggling and squirming in the sanctuary at times. Perhaps we can see that as a sign that the Body of Christ is being renewed among us.

When he returned to Atlanta, Rodger sent me a note, including these words about St. Philip: "The congregation is in a wonderful place – thoughtful, poised, energetic." May God bless us in this place and time, and may we use well all that God has given us.

Faithfully yours,



From your Art Collection Committee

Another group of captivating artworks from Central Presbyterian Church has now been installed at St. Philip. This group consists of fourteen small enamel-on-copper square panels with images and brass attachments that symbolize the twelve apostles. Originally they were set in the wall around the entrance to the sanctuary at Central. At St. Philip they have been mounted between the windows on the curved wall in the Education Building.

After 50 years of exposure, the surface of these small enameled squares had deteriorated, and members of the St. Phillip Art Committee looked for someone to restore them. We were fortunate to find Jan Harrell, an enamel artist and long-time teacher of enameling at the Glassell School of Art, who had the specialized skill and ability to restore these panels to their original beauty, as you now see them. The Committee decided this time to frame them so they could be hung rather than set into a wall as had been done at Central.

Central Presbyterian Church's brochure about the artworks in their church, *What Mean These Stones*. . . included a brief explanation of the imagery in the panels. Soon that information will be placed next to the artworks as they are hanging, but in the meantime the list below details the symbolism, in the order in which the panels now hang.

From left to right:

1. End wall, left: *The Evangelists*: Matthew, winged man; Mark, winged lion; Luke, winged ox, John, eagle.
2. Upper: *James*: windmill: martyred on one; saw: body cut asunder
Lower: *James*: shell: baptizing disciples; sword: martyrdom
3. Upper: *Peter*: cock: denial of Christ; cross: crucified upside down
Lower: *Simon*: fish: feeding the souls of men; Bible: Word of God
4. Upper: *John*: eagle and cup: witnessing to Christ's diety
Lower: *Bartholomew*: fig tree: where Jesus first saw him; sword: his death
5. Upper: *Paul*: armor and shield: equipment for the saints
Lower: *Andrew*: fish: "fishers of men"; anchor: a seaman - crucified on "x-shaped" cross
6. Upper: *Thomas*: square: carpenter, building of the church; spears: death
Lower: *Matthew*: money bags: tax collector; battle axe: death
7. Upper: *Philip*: basket: feeding of the 5000; cross: martyrdom
Lower: *Judas*: sailboat: missionary journeys; lance: martyrdom
8. End wall, right: *Judas*: blank: his betrayal of Christ

This completes the work of the Art Collection Committee on artworks from Central Presbyterian, and the Committee will turn to other ideas for present and future artworks for St. Philip. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact any member of the Committee.

Hallelujah!

CORNER

The Kids Against Hunger program received \$2,130 in the July communion offering thanks to your generosity.

Update from the St. Philip Garden

It's August, and the first growing season for the St. Philip Garden is just about done. In about a year, the garden has gone from the mustard seed of an idea to a bountiful harvest. The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee germinated and nourished the garden as part of an emphasis on Caring for Creation and a concern for food issues and hunger in our community and beyond. The Committee put the garden in its budget for 2014, and the project took off from there. To date, nearly 80 pounds of fresh produce have been harvested and donated to the Food Pantry of the Christian Community Service Center's Southwest Emergency Services program. Many thanks to everybody who has participated in one way or another to this new project of our congregation: planning, building the garden beds, planting the garden, harvesting, and delivering produce to CCSC. And thanks to the entire congregation for supporting this project with prayer and financial resources.

Two workdays are planned for getting us going on a Fall-Winter garden. On **Friday, August 29**, starting at 9:00 am, volunteers will be pulling out the spent plants and amending the soil for planting a few weeks later. On **Saturday, September 27**, starting at 8:30 am, we will be planting cool-weather veggies like onions, carrots, and greens. Come out for one or both of these workdays for fun and fellowship!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Beginning September 10, Keatan King will lead the Wednesday Morning Bible Study in examining the Minor Prophets together. These prophets are all the books of the Old Testament beginning with Hosea through Malachi and bear the title "Minor" because of their brevity, ranging in length from 1 to 14 chapters. Though we call them Minor, they deliver mighty messages from God spoken to restore justice and righteousness in Israel. For those who wish to prime themselves for learning by brushing up on the basics, I recommend The Hebrew Prophets by James D. Newsome, Jr.

As we study, we will expand our perception of prophets beyond "those who see the future," urging us to see a tradition of visionary preachers raising their voices to call a community into a decision. This summer, read the following chapters in this order: the History of Israel Prophecy (Chapter 1), Hosea (Chapter 3), Amos (Chapter 2), and Micah (Chapter 4). And plan to join Keatan at 10:30 on September 10, in the Dining Room, to begin this exciting study.

More Announcements...

Calling All Crafters: The Alternative Christmas-Market is looking for anyone who likes to sew, craft, build or arrange works of crafted art. Sell your items to benefit the mission partner of your choice or you can ask the Mission Committee to choose one for you. We encourage crafts of all scales, from small to large, including single or multiple items. Are you interested? For more information, please contact Lori Murphy via email at lmurphette@gmail.com or 713-447-5320.

Flu Shot Clinic: We are considering having a flu shot clinic at St. Philip this fall. This year there is a minimum quota to fill and the date for the clinic is still to be determined. So, we need to know how many people would attend before we can commit. Please call Laurie in the church office or email her at laurie@saintphilip.net to let us know if you would come to the flu clinic at St. Philip.

Volunteer Opportunity - Lord of the Streets (LOTS): The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, September 21. We gather in the St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 am to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and are back at the church by 9:00 am in time for Sunday School. Fifteen volunteers are needed. If September 21 is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying mission project.

Donations for the Seafarers Boxes can be left in the "Wishing Well" in the Gathering Area or in the church office. See the web site for a complete list of items needed.

September Communion Offering

On September 7th, our monthly communion offering will be dedicated to the use of IMA World Health. IMA World Health and the Presbyterian Church have a long history of partnership to advance health to vulnerable and marginalized people all over the world. Since 1960, IMA's programs have reached millions of people in need in many corners of a hurting world, in developing countries and areas ravaged by war, disaster and poverty. IMA World Health procures and distributes medication and supplies to clinics and hospitals; helps to treat, prevent, and control diseases, some of which have been virtually eliminated in the developed world; and supports education and training for health care professionals, community volunteers, and families.

All around the world, IMA World Health focuses on four primary goals:

- 1. Provide essential medicines and medical supplies** - Our various international public health programs, IMA Medicine Boxes®, Safe Motherhood Kits™, Healthy Kids Kits and targeted donations deliver urgently needed supplies to those who need them most.
- 2. Fight diseases** - In addition to HIV/AIDS care and treatment, IMA has a long history in targeting diseases that don't always make the news, including Neglected Tropical Diseases and the dangerous and disfiguring, yet treatable, childhood cancer Burkitt's Lymphoma.
- 3. Educate and train people** - We empower community health workers, health networks and health care personnel with skills and knowledge to improve care and save lives.
- 4. Seek long-term, sustainable solutions** - The DRC and Southern Sudan are models of improved long-term health care programs that will continue to benefit millions long after IMA's direct involvement ceases.

Thank you for your support as we work together to save lives and show love to people in need!

H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y	September	09 Bill Connolly	14 Chris Eagleston
	01 Sandra Truxillo	09 John Lemen	18 Katherine Pratt
	02 Cathy Hunt	09 Lily Frautschi	18 Emily Wilmarth
	04 Nita Davis	09 Madeline Irick	19 Laura Van Vliet
	04 Richard Howard	10 Jessica Fair	21 Tamara Arlinghaus
	05 Wilbert Parada	11 Ruth Weber	21 Mary Grace Carter
	05 Stephen Hunt	11 Mary Benson	23 Linda Bevill
	06 Kitty Curry	11 Callie Bream	24 Dimas Parada
	06 John Hudson	13 Charlotte Murphy	24 Albert Pepi
	06 Jeanette Wennenweser	14 Donna Host	25 Pat Fortney
	06 Matthew Dirst	14 Barbara Bennett	26 Cynthia Shoup
	06 Greg Lewis	14 Ginny Camfield	26 Judith Hiott
	07 Brian Coufal	14 Stanley Soroka	27 Robin Willis
	08 Bill Carlson	14 Joseph Munson Jr.	30 Carolyn Keeble
	08 Elizabeth Munson	14 Carolyn Geis	
08 Madeleine Irick	14 Sam Fisher		

~ September 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Houston Pipers	2 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm AA, Rm 16	3 12:00pm Personnel Committee, CFR 7:00pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room	4 9am Fitness Class, DR	5 12pm Men's Fellowship, Conference Room 12pm SLAA, Rm 16 8pm AA, Rm16	6 6pm Annual Church BBQ, Fellowship Hall
7 Rally Day! 8:30am Worship Service 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 11am Worship Service 12:30pm Session Committee Meetings: Education #201 Fellowship #103 Mission Mtg., 204 Property Mtg., 202 Stewardship Mtg., 203 Welcome & Member.,105 Worship & Music, 200	8 10am Monday Morning Saints, DR 5:30pm Monday Evening Study Group 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, BR 7pm Houston Pipers	9 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm AA, Rm 16	10 10:30am Wednesday Bible Study, DR 7pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room	11 9am Fitness Class, DR 7pm Monthly Book Club	12 12pm Men's Fellowship, Conference Room 12pm SLAA, Rm 16 8pm AA, Rm16	13 9:00am Kids Against Hunger, Dining Room 10:30am SAQA Quilting, Arts & Crafts Studio 7pm Oasis de Amor Worship Service, FH
14 First day SS Classes 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 11am Worship Service 12:30pm Peacemaking & Social Justice Mtg., CFR 5:30pm PW Open House at Interface Samaritan	15 11:30am Amazing Place Board Meeting 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, BR 7pm Houston Pipers 7pm Theology on Tap	16 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm AA, Rm 16 7pm Session Meeting, DR	17 10:30am Wednesday Bible Study, DR 12:30pm 3rd Bridge, DR 7pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room	18 9am Fitness Class, DR	19 Young Adults Retreat, Mo-Ranch 12pm Men's Fellowship, Conference Room 12pm SLAA, Rm 16 8pm AA, Rm16	20 7pm Oasis de Amor Worship Service, FH
21 6:30am Lord of the Streets 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 11am Worship Service 12:30pm Sunday Circle, Dining Room	22 5:30pm Monday Evening Study Group 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, BR 7pm Houston Pipers	23 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm AA, Rm 16	24 10am Wednesday Circle, Parlor 10:30am Wednesday Bible Study, DR 7:00pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room	25 9am Fitness Class, DR	26 12pm Men's Fellowship, Conference Room 12pm SLAA, Rm 16 8pm AA, Rm16	27 7pm Oasis de Amor Worship Service, FH
28 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 11am Worship Service 12:45pm Sunday Watch,103	29 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, BR 7pm Houston Pipers	30 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm AA, Rm 16				

Sunday School Classes for All

Nursery Available from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Until September 7 includes children 3 mo. to pre-K

Church and Society - meets in Room 201 - Coming in September !

Making Lemonade From Sour Evolution-Wars presented by Bruce Yaeger. Each fall, biology teachers, anxious parents, and children remain uncertain about whether there will be another battle over the theory of evolution. Is there any way to "make lemonade" out of the sour evolution-wars?

September 14 - Tempest in a British Teapot.

September 21 An Awkward History: The U.S.A. and Evolution.

The two sessions will re-examine the conflicts over evolution, first in Britain and then in the U.S., and the many misconceptions among both anti-evolutionists and evolutionists and squeeze out of that history how to better interrelate science and religion so as to find greater depth in Christian theology and the Bible.

Bible Study - meets in Room 204- This class, led by Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop, will start again on September 14, after Rally Day Sunday.

Arts and Crafts Studio Classes

August 24th at 9:30 am—Photo Scrapping with Lorrie Castle. - See how simple it is to create stories with photos for your albums, wall plaques or cards. Bring 8-10 pictures of family for the event.

Rally Day is September 7

(See article on page 1)



4807 San Felipe
Houston, Texas 77056
713.622.4807
www.saintphilip.net

Dated material

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Permit No. 2396

Invitation to All St. Philip Presbyterian Women

September 14 , 2014

5:30 p.m.

*PW Kick-off for Fall
Wine and Cheese Gathering
at Interface Samaritan Counseling Center
(the building behind the Church office)*