

PHILIP-EYE

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

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Houston, Texas

August 17, 2015

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Omar Rouchon
Ministry Associate

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Thomas Goetz
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

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Micah Meyers
Communications Assistant
Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor
Dimas Parada
Custodian

Laurie Fortenbery
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Music to Music
at St. Philip

2015 SUMMER RECITAL SERIES

presents

David Heller
Professor of Music and University Organist
Trinity University

Program includes music by Dieterich Buxtehude,
Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms,
Craig Phillips, Gerre Hancock, and Max Reger

Sunday, August 30
6:00 p.m.

Admission is free; an offering will be received.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

A service of healing and wholeness will be held next Sunday, August 23, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. 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.

www.saintphilip.net



@StPhilipHouston



IN OUR PRAYERS

Russell Bahruth & family upon death of his mother Lillian L. Bahruth

Mary Jane McDaniel & family upon death of her mother Ken Bartholomey - Mary Ann Thomas' husband - under hospice care at home *Recuperating at Home*

Sandra Cooper - MD Anderson Bedford Vestal

Steve Carmichael - lyme disease Rusty Howard

Larry Dean- Seven Acres Chuck Johnson

Penny Vieau - recuperating at home Jo Jones

Pat Fortney - tests with oncologis

Jan Connor - recuperating from surgery

Tom "Mike" Tomforde, Jr. - Hallmark HC

Linda Joullian, Wayne Truxillo's sister - cancer

Joe Anne Berwick - recuperating at Belmont

Martha Jenkinson - former member - pancreatic cancer

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Our tradition of sending off our students to start another school year will continue on Sunday, August 23. A special litany and blessing over school bags will take place during the 11 o'clock worship service. All are invited and welcomed to participate!

ARTS & CRAFT STUDIO

Although the next schedule Saturday craft is September 5th, due to this being a holiday weekend we will not be holding our cropping/crafting/knitting month. We look forward to seeing you in October.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Nursery and Preschool

Infants and children through 3 years old

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

Staffed by professional childcare providers

Preschool 4 through 12th grade

These classes will not meet during the summer months. They will resume September 13th.

Adult Classes

CHURCH & SOCIETY - Room 201

SPa CLASS - Room 200

BIBLE STUDY - Room 204 -Adult Bible Study – Room 204 – This Fall the class will begin a study of the book of Judges which continues the narrative of the Israelites' conquest and occupation of the land of Canaan after the death of Joshua. This book focuses on the challenges to the Israelites' faith in its accounts of Deborah, Gideon, Sampson, and other leaders. It also follows the covenantal relationship between God and His people as they settle into the Promised Land. 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.

ARTS & CRAFT STUDIO

These classes will not meet during the summer months. They will resume in the fall.

SAVE THE DATE – RALLY DAY 2015

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY!

Mark your calendars for Sunday School Rally Day, September 13! All classrooms will be open and ready for learning! Bring a friend- new or old- to learn about what your class has to offer and get started on what is sure to be a wonderful year of learning, fellowship and growth! Teachers have worked hard to get ready for this big day and are excited to have you join them on the 13th!

Here is a list of our many class options, for all ages, and their locations:

Godly Play (Age 3-Kindergarten)	Rm. 104
Lower Elementary (Grades 1, 2 and 3)	Rm. 105
Upper Elementary (Grades 4 and 5)	Rm. 103
Middle School (Grade 6-8)	Rm. 206
High School (Grade 9-12)	Rm. 205
St. Philip Adults (SPA)	Rm. 200
Church & Society	Rm. 201
Adult Bible Study	Rm. 204

Read some messages below from our Sunday School Teachers!

3 yrs through Kindergarten: Omi Ford, Joyce Fox and Ruthie Waldrop

On the first Sunday in Godly Play, we will begin to "build" the circle of children in our classroom. Our circle actually parallels the worship experience. We first invite God to join us in our circle of play. We will begin to know each other's names with a game (greeting); we'll have a story told with physical pieces (seeing and hearing the Word); our "work" time (response to the story using art or playing with another story one has heard before); prayer and "feast" (snack) together; and blessing and good-bye. That is a lot to do in a little over an hour!

Please come at 9:30 and know that you are welcome to bring a friend!

1st /2nd /3rd Grades, Kara & Paul D'Agostino

We are so excited to meet our new friends this year! Our first Sunday will be the start of our "journey" through the Bible and we will begin by creating Passports that will become a very important piece of each and every Sunday this church school year. Please join us on the 13th and bring a friend with you!

4th and 5th, Linda Bevill and McNair Johnson

Welcome to all of our new class members! This year we will learn more about the Bible. Some Bible stories will tell us strange and fascinating things. We will learn about what followers of Jesus did in the past, and we will talk about what we can do now as followers of Jesus. So bring your drama-reading, puzzle-solving, play-acting, game-playing, Jesus-loving selves to Room 103 on the 13th.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

A monthly interest group for women who like to read books, socialize, and have a night out. We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at a member's home. At our next meeting, September 10 we will discuss *Silkworm*, by Robert Galbraith aka JK Rowling. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information go to:

www.saintphilip.net/bookgroup

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY LORD OF THE STREETS (LOTS)

The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, September 20th. 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. If this date is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713-464-2385 to take part in this gratifying project.



ST. PHILIP NOTE CARDS

St. Philip has note cards using Micah's original art work for sale. 1 package of 10 cards with envelopes is \$12. You can purchase them in the church office.

GUATEMALA REPORT

Vicki McKay and Jenny Towns will give a report on their mission trip to Guatemala on Sunday, August 30 from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. A light lunch will be served, so if you are interested in attending please call Laurie in the church office at 713-622-4807 to make your reservation.

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFETY TRAINING WORKSHOP



Calling all teachers and volunteers who work with St. Philip children and youth. Jan Fox will be leading a Child Protection and Safety training workshop this month in accordance with the church's child protection policy. All teachers and volunteers must complete the training, but all adults of the church are invited and encouraged to participate, especially if there may be future occasions for your participation with our children and youth programs this school year. There is still one training on Sunday, August 23. This workshop will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Room 201. Please contact Omar Rouchon if you have any questions.

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

If you missed the Summer Lecture Series with Dr. Robert Dykstra or wish to listen again to his thoughtful teaching, Paxton Williams can provide you with the recordings on a CD. Please email Paxton directly at pkw.pegasus@att.net to receive a copy.

Dear St. Philipians,

In chronicling seasons of my life, if I were to name this summer, it would be the Summer of Pilgrimage. There were traditional, familiar pilgrimages I made to the All Church Retreat at Mo Ranch, Vacation Bible School, and the Youth Celebration Conference. But this year, a new pilgrimage captured my heart and my soul. I journeyed for a week of Continuing Education with the Iona Community in Scotland. This was a journey which required one plane, one train, one bus, and two ferries. Thankfully, not all who wish to encounter the Iona Community have to make such a journey. The heart of their identity is found not on a map, but in the rhythms of life they keep.

The Iona Community "is a dispersed Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community, and the renewal of worship." The Community seeks to pursue this vision through a life ordered by communal sharing in virtually every dimension of daily life.

As a guest of the community for a week, I kept three of the four pillars of the Rule for life together:

- Daily prayer, worship with others and regular engagement with the Bible and other material which nourishes us
- Working for justice and peace, wholeness and reconciliation in our localities, society and the whole creation
- Sharing in the corporate life and organization of the Community

So many of our cultural values are geared toward gathering people together to do as much as possible. The Iona Community flips this pattern on its head: they are doing as much as possible to gather people together before God. In a paradigmatic reversal, all of our time, work, and worship were avenues in which to be in the presence of God together as one community. On Iona, it mattered little if we were scrubbing showers, having tea, or singing a hymn, as long as we were sharing our whole being with one another.

Returning to familiar rhythms of St. Philip, I hope to incorporate these values into the tempo of St. Philip. I wait with joy and hope for all that God will reveal in our community life this year.

Grace and peace,

Kenton King

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Scott Easterly and Bill Holden

Scott and Bill come to us from Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church here in Houston. Scott grew up in Carbondale and Springfield, IL. Scott attended University at Memphis (TN), and works in sales of carpets and rugs to the design trade. He has a strong faith and tells us that he believes that "involvement in church activities and spiritual development have been an important aspect of his life". He practices daily devotions to help him balance a professional organization, community, and church involvement on a rotating basis. In his spare time, Scott enjoys walking and gardening.

Bill grew up in Anderson, S.C. and attended school in South Carolina as well. He works in Healthcare as a Medical Records Consultant. He tells us that he enjoys balancing all aspects of his life between home, church and family, and social. He is a sociable person who "never met a stranger"!

They found St. Philip by researching on the website. Both are attracted to our worship, music, staff and friendliness of our congregation. Scott is interested in involvement in our Education programs, Worship, Welcoming and Membership, Caring and Peacemaking/Social Justice. Bill is interested in Welcoming and Membership, Caring and Peacemaking/Social Justice. Please welcome Scott and Bill to St. Philip.

John L Bobbitt

John comes to us from First Presbyterian in Houston. He grew up in St. Alban's, Queens, N.Y. and attended Hofstra College, New Brunswick, and N.V. Seminary. Currently retired, he still teaches ESL (English as a Second Language) and enjoys reading in his spare time. After seminary, he was a social worker in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. He served as a Lay Leader of Park Slope, Brooklyn, Presbyterian Church and then worked for 20 years for Houston Public Works Water Division.

John was a member of St. Philip in previous years, and returned to us for our church school programs, friendly congregation, staff, worship, and music. He is interested in being involved in our Sunday School Education, Worship, and Fellowship and Caring. Please welcome John back to St. Philip.

Guy and Melissa Aldrich

Guy and Melissa come to us from First Presbyterian, Houston. Guy grew up in Corpus Christi, then moved to Austin where he attended UT. He deals in land and transactions in the oil and gas industry. In his free time he enjoys golf and sleeping!

Melissa grew up in Dickinson, Texas, and attended UT-Austin and then UH for an MBA, and lastly UTHSC for a doctorate. She works in medical research and enjoys reading, exercise, piano, and cats.

They have 2 grown daughters together. In the past they have been involved in hand bell choir and in Sunday School teaching. They were attracted to St. Philip by our church school programs, friendly congregation, staff, worship, and music. Please welcome Guy and Melissa to St. Philip.

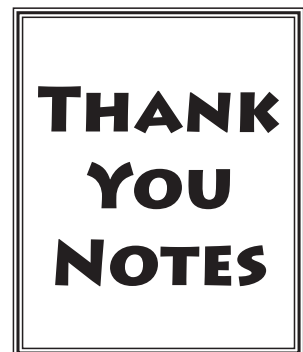
Friends

Thank you all so much for your prayers, kind words of encouragement, visits, cards and heartfelt support during this very trying time in our lives.

This year has been a challenging time made easier - with the Lord and all of you by our side! Currently, my trips to MD Anderson have decreased to several times per week, instead of spending every single day at the hospital. I am feeling much better.

Barbara and I appreciate your continued prayers. We are strong with hope!
God bless you, sincerely:

W. R. Howard
William R. Howard



Dear Saint Philip Family,

Once again you have been your caring selves! I felt your prayers bearing me up as I went into surgery and all along the way. Your cards amused and comforted me; your flowers brightened my days; and your visits and calls helped me heal.

Thanks for the many reminders that we are together in God's presence at all times!

Love, "Toto"

To my St. Philip Family,

Thank you all for the cards, food, prayers and hugs during Al's 19 month illness and his passing. The love shown to Edward, Trent and me has been comforting and sustaining. We are truly blessed to be a part of this loving and caring congregations.

With love and heartfelt thanks,
Beth Atkinson

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST YOUNG ADULT EVENT AT ST. PHILIP!

FOOD+FAITH

Food+Faith is a potluck Christian Education seminar fostering spiritual growth, theological competency, and biblical engagement for folks in their 20s and 30s with an eye for what young adults want to learn.

Facing the Mystery of Grief (or practicing empathy with minimal blunders)

Led by Nathan Carlin

What do we say or do when some we care about is facing losses like death, illness, unemployment, divorce, etc.? And how do we face these losses in our own lives?

Sunday, August 23, 2015

12:30pm-2:00pm

Dining Room

This Sunday, bring a dish to share and drop it off in the Refrigerator in the Staff Offices.

(If you need to keep something warm, please use a crockpot, as we won't have an oven to offer.)

Best of all, childcare is available!



Quilts made at home by Carolyn Vestal and her granddaughter, Caroline, and brought to the Piece Makers of St. Philip for the children who attend the pre-school at the House of Tiny Treasures.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

2015-2016 HOUSTON AREA HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women of New Covenant Presbytery invites you to an overview of the 2015-2016 Horizon's Bible Study, "Come to the Waters," during the month of August. This date is still available. Pre-registration is requested one week prior to the event.

Saturday, August 29 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

1215 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055

Register with Margaret Rouse in the church office at

713-464-7659 or secretary@springbranchpres.org.

In the 9 lessons of the study, water plays a central role in the stories of scripture, from the chaotic waters of Creation to the River of Life in Revelation. The rich imagery of water throughout the Bible helps us understand and articulate our faith. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so these passages on water nourish our souls. The study was written by Judy Fletcher, former moderator of Synod of the Sun.

CONNECT WITH MONTREAT REMINDER!

Visit beautiful Montreat Conference Center October 5-8, 2015 with other women from New Covenant Presbytery as we encounter God through relationships, renewal, recreation and rest. Housing will be in the newly renovated Assembly Inn. Registration fee (\$330 for single occupancy and \$210 for double occupancy) includes lodging for 3 nights and 7 meals. In addition to meeting the Montreat staff and touring the conference center and surrounding area, we will have a book discussion of Richard Rohr's Falling Upward. For registration information contact Mary Ann Thomas at ma.thomas48@yahoo.com or 281-277-3844. Other members of the planning team are Sara Jean Jackson (sjj10223@gmail.com), Cathy Steward (cathy@cathy.steward.com), Becky Weatherall, and Anne Wilson.

SEAFARER CHRISTMAS BOXES

St. Philip will be participating in the 2015 Christmas Shoebox Program. We are collecting the following items to fill the Christmas boxes: 100 medium sized shoe boxes, hotel samples (of shampoo, conditioner, hand cream), socks, wash cloths, bars of soap, toothpaste/brushes, handkerchiefs, pencils, pens, paper, cards, paper clips, sewing kits, stick, cotton balls, band aids, cups, gloves, ziplock bags, small calendar, packs of tissues, decks of cards, razors, comb, flashlights, chewing gum, hard candy, rubber bands, a holiday card. The boxes will be distributed to visiting seafarers by volunteers and Chaplains working with the Houston Int'l Seafarer's Center. Place your donations in the wishing well in the Gathering Area.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Dining Room - 5:30 P.M. The next gathering of the Monday evening study group is August 24, in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus). We will be reading chapter 2 in Amy-Jill Levine's Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi. This chapter examines the good Samaritan. Join us from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. for coffee, snacks, and conversations that feed the mind and nourish faith.

PHILIP-EYE info.

Articles should be sent to Laurie Fortenbery:
philip-eye@saintphilip.net.

Please take note: The deadline for submitting articles for the next PhilipEYE is Thursday, August 27.

