

November 19, 2024

Volume 68, Issue 20

PHILIP-EYE

SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH THE MISSION COMMITTEE

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

Rev. Dr. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Justin Langham
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Diana Weiss
Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

PLANT IT FORWARD COMMUNITY WORK DAY

On Saturday, **November 23**, from 9:30 - 11:30 AM, join the Mission Committee as we volunteer at the Westbury Farm located at 12581 Dunlap St., Houston, TX 77035.



We'll be getting our hands dirty and working together to maintain the farm. It's a great opportunity to connect with your neighbors, provide support to our farmers and give back to the community. If you can help email mission@saintphilip.net

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PCHAS ANGEL TREE PROGRAM



**Presbyterian Children's
Homes and Services**

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services is recruiting volunteers to sort and inventory all the Angel Tree gifts received. They have 3 time slots open right now. They need volunteers to help **December 10** (shifts 10 AM-1 PM and 1-4 PM) and **December 11** (1-3 PM.) The sorting and inventory will take place at PCHAS' Cypress office located at 10242 Greenhouse Road, #501. You can sign up to help by clicking [here](#). If you have family or friends that would like to help, please feel free to share this link with them.

SEAFARER CHRISTMAS BOX WRAPPING

On Sunday, **December 8**, from 10:30 - 11 AM in the Gathering Area, join us in wrapping the Seafarer boxes with Christmas paper. After church, the wrapping will continue in the Arts & Crafts room from 12 - 1 PM. Sign up in the Gathering Area at the mission table if you can help with the holiday service project.



CCSC JINGLE BELL EXPRESS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



St. Philip members are invited to distribute toys, books, and gift cards to clients on Saturday, **December 14**, first shift 8:45-11:30 AM. The Jingle Bell Express event will take place at Bellaire United Methodist Church (4417 Bellaire Blvd.). If you can join us to spread Christmas cheer sign up in the Gathering Area on Sundays in November and December, or email:

mission@saintphilip.net

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



The Session welcome Casey and Amy Morriss to the St. Philip community on October 20. Casey and Amy are parents to a twenty-one year old son, Aiden, who is studying history and philosophy at the University of New Orleans. Casey is a chemical engineer, and his position as Director of Refinery Margin Improvement with Phillips 66 brought them both to Houston after living in the Pacific Northwest. Amy is an educator who develops high school engineering curricula and supports engineering teachers through the Engineer Your World program at UT-Austin. She is also pursuing her doctorate in adult learning from William Woods University. Casey and Amy are both avid hikers but are also thoroughly enjoying the great culture and cuisine Houston has to offer.

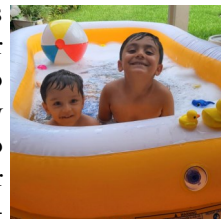
Casey and Amy are both avid hikers but are also thoroughly enjoying the great culture and cuisine Houston has to offer.



Poinsettias for the Chancel are purchased from The Brookwood Community. Brookwood provides an educational environment that creates meaningful work, builds a sense of belonging, and awakens genuine purpose in the lives of adults with disabilities.

WE ARE HAVING A LITTLE BROTHER!

Our sweet family from Afghanistan is having a baby! And yes it is a boy! Our family has worked hard to settle in to their new life here. It has not been easy but they are so grateful. And with no family here, I thought we could be their family. So! I am going to have a shower for Mommy. And if you cannot make it, I will put a box in the Gathering Area if you'd like to gift Mommy with a surprise for the baby. She will need lots of diapers and wipes, and I am sure cute little outfits will make her heart smile.



The baby shower will be **December 8** from 3 to 5 PM in the home of Tina Bryan. If you can attend she would love it! AND! This is not just a girl thing—men and women will be in attendance to celebrate. Give her a shout at 281.536.8816 or email her at tinairene@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks so much!
Tina Bryan



Christmas Poinsettias

Donations of any amount accepted

(circle one) **I / we** would like to make a donation to purchase poinsettias to adorn our chancel during this Christmas season

(circle one) **in honor of / memory of** _____

Donor - Your Name(s) (Please print legibly) _____

*Please place envelope in the offering plate or return it with your **payment** to the church office by Tuesday, **December 10**. Use additional space below if needed.*

I have included a _____ check, _____ cash or _____ will pay online.

Pay online by going to the saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting *Flowers/Holiday* as the fund and putting **POINT** in the memo. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). *Email if you wish to honor/remember to lorrie@saintphilip.net*



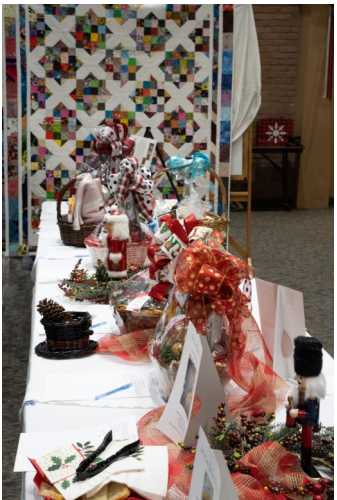
Kid's Against Hunger meal packing session on November 17.

Photos by Keatan King



CHRISTMAS UKULELES

Calling all St. Philip ukuleles of all experience levels! Join us in participating in the upcoming Christmas program "Festival of Carols" on Sunday, **December 8** at 5 PM. We will rehearse briefly in the sanctuary immediately after worship on Sunday's **December 1** and **8**. Music and ukuleles are available to all who need them. If you have any questions contact Justin at: justin@saintphilip.net.



DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOR THE SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES



BLACK WORK SOCKS **BAND AIDS** **DENTAL FLOSS** **LIP BALM**
BANDANAS **BODY WASH/SOAP** **CHEWING GUM**
HANDKERCHIEFS **OR HARD CANDY**
DEODORANT **COTTON SWABS** **EARBUDS/HEADPHONES**
GOLD BOND CREME **HAIRBRUSH/** **BASEBALL**
SINGLE-WRAPPED **COMB** **FLASHLIGHTS** **NAIL**
TOOTHBRUSHES **(W/ BATTERIES)** **CLIPPERS**
POCKET-SIZED **MAGNETS** **MECHANICAL PENCILS/PENS**
NOTEBOOKS **KEY CHAINS** **NEW T-SHIRTS**
SHAVING CREME **HAND WIPES** **PLAYING CARDS**
SEWING KIT **WASHCLOTHS** **POCKET CALCULATORS** **SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER**
TEXAS SOUVENIERS **TISSUES** **WORD SEARCH/** **NON-PERISHABLE SNACKS**
SODUKO **POCKET CALCULATORS** **KEY CHAINS**

PLEASE PLACE THE ITEMS IN THE DESIGNATED BOX IN THE **GATHERING AREA** OR IN
THE CHURCH OFFICE MAILROOM

EXTENDED—SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX COLLECTION

Mission committee has extended the deadline collecting toiletry and self-care supplies until first weekend of December. Please bring your donations to the Gathering Area collection boxes any Sunday or drop off your donations at the Church Office during the week. If you want to know quantity of any particular item needed please email Sue Howard—sue@fluencyhouston.com.

NEW ST. PHILIP MISSION T-SHIRTS

The Mission Committee is excited to once again take orders for our new “official” St. Philip T-shirt! As we are out and about volunteering or as we gather as a community at Mo-Ranch or other fellowship events, this is a great way to identify and promote that we are members of St. Philip! The design is new! Thank you to Marcia James for granting us permission to use her Pentecost Banner as the design on the back of the shirt. “We Choose Welcome” appears in 4 languages on the front. The shirts are produced in a 100% No Sweatshops & Eco-Friendly company that is Platinum WRAP (Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production) Certified.



- Sales will be held in the Gathering Area and MyStPhilip on our website through Sunday, **December 1**.
- Sample shirts in all sizes are available at the Mission table.
- Payment must be made at the time you order by check, cash or credit card.
- Shirts may be picked up at church starting on Sunday, **December 15** – just in time for Christmas!
- If you have any questions email: Anne Wilson (anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com).

ADVENT YOGA & CENTERING PRAYER

Come. Step away from the holiday hustle. Give yourself the gift of time. Join us for Saturday, December 14 from 10 AM-12 PM for gentle yoga and silent prayer during this busy season. We will enjoy the stretching, grounding and centering that comes with yoga, using chairs or your mats in the Gathering Area with Susan Lange. In the sanctuary, Meg Scott Johnson will instruct us on centering prayer/lectio divina. Then we will open our hearts and minds to God’s presence with us in the quiet.

All are welcome. No experience required. For more information, contact Betsy Boston (ehbluzerne@aol.com).



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FAMILY GATHERING ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, DEC. 1ST 10:30 AM

CRAFTS, HOT CHOCOLATE, COOKIE EXCHANGE
HOMEBOUND CARD SIGNING

ST. PHILIP VBS | ADVENT 2024 | LUKE 1:46-55

Mary's Magnificent Song

SATURDAY, DEC. 7TH 9AM-2PM

ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE ARE WELCOMED > THERE IS NO COST

[TO REGISTER VISIT: SAINTPHILIP.NET]

* PLEASE BRING A BAGGED LUNCH & WEAR CLOSED-TOE SHOES



MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP



Festival of Carols

SUNDAY, DEC. 8TH 5 PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SEASONAL FAVORITES SUCH AS BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S "CEREMONY OF CAROLS," A CAROL SING-A-LONG AND MORE!

WITH CHOIR, HANDBELLS, HARP & UKULELES

Advent Meditations

WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER AT 12 PM

A WEEKLY OFFERING OF MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD

- DEC. 4:** RUSLAN BAI AZITOV, PIANO
- DEC. 11:** INGRID GERLING, VIOLIN & ANDREEA MUT, PIANO
- DEC. 18:** HOPE COWAN, HARP

LUNCH AVAILABLE AFTERWARDS IN GATHERING AREA



SCAN QR CODE TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CAROL TO SING AS PART OF THE SING-A-LONG!

[M.A.S.P. CAROL VOTE]

Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church
4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | saintphilip.net

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip    

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S Christmas Luncheon

CATERED LUNCH: \$20


Please bring COOKIES!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

AFTER 11 AM WORSHIP

[IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL]

All women are invited to participate in this time of Fellowship.



RSVP & PAY BY DEC. 8

[PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON]



December Birthdays

Name	Day	Stew	Coffman	13	Ellis	Newport	19
Julia Irick	1	Margaret	King	13	Peter	Schneider	25
Julie Itz	1	John	Van Osdall	13	Katherine	Boone	27
Virginia McMaster	5	Orlean	Anderson	14	Dan	Cleveland	28
Jared Ewing	6	Nicholas	Arlinghaus	14	David	Lindsay	29
Micah Goodman	6	Paloma	Frautschi	14	Vicki	McKay	29
Jean Stanley	6	Gary	Miller	15	Meghan	Sankowski	29
Jim Lomax	7	Bill	Taylor	16	Shiloh	Brewer	30
Larry Wright	8	Edith	Patterson	17	Donald	Padgett	30
Doris Cantrell	9	William	Baker	18	Judye	Hartman	31
Pam Keever	12	Judy	Hill	18	Jim	Waggoner	31

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—Agreeing that a focus on disinformation is timely and important in this year of election politics, the current study book is Barbara McQuade's *Attack from Within; how disinformation is sabotaging America*. This group meets by zoom on the first Monday night of each month, 7-8 PM. The next meeting is Monday, **December 2**. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at sjj10223@gmail.com.

LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 PM. via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly at 9:30 AM, and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Con-

ference Room and also a Zoom option. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to:

john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **December 12** at 7:00 PM. This will be a social gathering. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 AM. We are learning from *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.

PLANT IT FORWARD PLANNING DINNER



On Thursday, October 24, Gage Grewal and Angelina Fonseca-Grewal attended a planning dinner hosted at the home of Pat & Sandra O'Donnell. The chef of the dinner was a Plant It Forward farmer and he prepared a traditional Burmese meal. The discussion

at each table during the meal revolved around the food system in Houston and how we can make it more local. Plant It Forward is the recent recipient of a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to purchase land around the Houston area, prepare the land for farming, train more farmers, and establish a supply chain with local grocery stores and farmers' markets so that Houstonians have access to more locally grown produce. The goal is to one day provide 1% of Houstonians' fresh fruits and vegetables and herbs that we consume weekly. Right now, Plant It Forward Farms feed .1% of Houstonians. Gage and Angelina enjoyed brainstorming with farmers, non-profit leaders, university agricultural professors, and social activists about who should be involved in the planning of utilizing the USDA grant effectively as well as considerations to take into account when growing the farming program such as clean water collection and management, bee population health, educating children and families about farming locally, and how to partner with local grocery stores. Plant It Forward is part of a national movement to rejuvenate local food systems, working with independent, professional farmers with refugee backgrounds to grow and distribute fresh produce throughout our community. PIF was founded in 2011 by a family of philanthropic entrepreneurs — the O'Donnells — who wanted to enable the similarly entrepreneurial ambitions of refugees being resettled in Houston. Refugees with agricultural backgrounds are resettled here with few options for finding meaningful, dignified work that utilizes their crucial skill sets. In collaboration with Catholic Charities' local refugee resettlement office and Urban Harvest, the family worked with a group of skilled Congolese refugees to deliberately craft an urban market farming project.



Bridges to Life Celebrates over 85,000 Graduates



On Friday, November 8, John & Gay Van Osdall, John Wurster, Deb Burks, Sharon and Curt Webb, and Angelina Fonseca-Grewal attended the 2024 Bridges to Life Vision Luncheon and Fundraiser. Attendees heard from two Bridges to

Life Graduates and a celebration for the volunteers years of service was recognized with two awards presentations. Bridges to Life just celebrated its 85,000 graduate from the program. 86 in 100 participants to not return to prison,

and in Texas, the Bridges to Life recidivism rate is the lowest in the country at 20.3%. Since the organizations inception, over 3,800 volunteers have supported this restorative justice program, with 750 volunteers entering prisons in 18 states and 7 countries around the globe. If you would like to volunteer with Bridges to Life to lead a 12 week study program with a group of 10 inmates and other volunteers, please contact Bridges to Life at 713-463-7200 or contact@bridgestolife.org.

ALTERNATIVE MARKET SUCCESS

On Sunday, November 10, 25 mission partners and 5 St. Philip groups came together in the Fellowship hall to share with the St. Philip congregation what their organization is doing in the community and around the world. Special guests included students visiting from Pan American School who served cookies, young students who volunteer with refugee farmers at Plant It Forward farms, St. Philip Youth representing Kids Against Hunger who recruited volunteers for the first church wide packing event, and young children of Pastor Eid Abdulmassih who shared their ministry efforts ongoing in Houston. Christmas gifts were sold. St. Philip members also signed up to volunteer with some mission partners for events in November and December. St. Philip members ordered their new St. Philip t-shirts and enjoyed warm spiced wassail, kolaches and tacos. The silent auction was a huge success raising funds for mission activities! Many church members walked around the auction tables checking on their bids until the auction closed at 1 PM. Thank you to the St. Philip staff, mission committee, mission partner representatives and church members that made the Alternative Market possible and a success.

(Alternative Market photos by John Judson)



NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 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 FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—ROOM 103

We are offering three cycles of 6-week classes from September-December to experiment with increased variety of topics, teachers, and formats in our Sunday School, as well as introducing new opportunities for youth to engage in mission and children to engage in music.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BLUEY

OCTOBER 20 TO NOVEMBER 24

9:45 - 10:45 AM

ADULTS: RM 202, LED BY: JOHN WURSTER

GRADES 1-4: RM 204-205

LED BY: KEATAN KING & LIZ MIGUEZ



ALL AGES BEGIN BY MEETING IN ROOM 205

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—DINING ROOM—Youth families will turn the Sunday School hour into a time to revive the Kids Against Hunger program as leaders in our congregation.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—We are continuing with our study of Job in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Prophets and Ecclesiastes (2010)*. Join us from 9:30 – 10:40 a.m. to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to God's people from Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship in the chapel, while also praying, seeing and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn. The Children's Chapel is held every 2nd and 4th Sunday when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to participate in this during the worship service.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—ROOM 201—Join us from 9:30 a.m.—10:40 a.m. with presentations in person and by Zoom. Nov. 24 - Rabbi Steven Morgen, Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Yeshurun, returns to Church & Society for his Thanksgiving presentation - "A Rabbi Looks at the New Testament." Dec. 1 - "Stories of Personal Transformation in the Juvenile Justice System" - Dan Gordon's filmmaking residency program at the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department enables students ages 15 - 18 to craft their own narrative by making an original movie (from script to screen). Over the past two and a half years, Central Mission Endowment Fund's generous support has helped turn this burgeoning program into an established partnership that now operates out of two juvenile justice locations and delivers film-based intervention programs multiple times a year. Presented by Dan Gordon - Documentary Filmmaker and Executive Director of Gordon Education Initiatives for the Performing Arts, a non-profit with a mission to empower youth voices through the art of digital media. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net



IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philipians and their families—Jeremy Mattern; Carmen Stevenson; Nidhal Aldarraj; Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; Roderick James; Susan Estill; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Diane Clarke; Karen Morris; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Faith Fugit— daughter of Joyce Fugit; Raquel Calhoun -sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Terese Murphy- cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Paige Everhart – sister of Nancy E. Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philipians – Pete & Gloria Benevides, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Annette Covey—friend of Guy & Melissa Aldrich; Stephen Wedemeyer and Mary Watters - friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Bill Ward, Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; and Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email: deacons@saintphilip.net

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pledge payments, communion gifts and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>), text “SPPC” to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net or Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net.

You can still turn in your pledge card via mail, dropping in the offering plate, the church office or going online :> **My St. Philip** (icon at top of webpage) > **Sign In** > enter email & password > **Sign In** > **My Giving Summary** > **Pledge Now** > **Add Pledge** > fill in the appropriate information > **Save**. Thank you!

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:

Tuesday, December 3 - Deadline November 27—3:00 p.m. Please note change in deadline date—Happy Thanksgiving.

Stay connected with regular emails from the pastors until then.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Philip-Eye, please send them to:

philipeye@saintphilip.net or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



Instagram



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