

PHILIP-EYE

THE MYSTERY OF MISSION

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Randall Swanson
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Cecy Duarte
Children's Music Associate

Micah Meyers
Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Kenya Thomas
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

I have been involved with SeaFarers Christmas Boxes for almost as long as I have belonged to SPPC - which is about 30 years. The Mission has continued to grow. I remember when Beth Henrickson used to knit 52 SeaFarer Caps each year and then bring them to the church in a large box. It was so impressive that it compelled me to learn to knit - just SeaFarer Hats and Prayer Shawls - I still can only read a simple pattern. During those years we scrimped and hoped to have 75 boxes. It was tight. But we used everything we received and if we had extra we always gave it away. The Lord Always Provided.

Fast forward to 2021 and we had 132 hand knitted hats (at least 70 were knitted by Jane Cooper) and one baseball cap and filled 133 boxes. But the boxes were NOT just filled, they were QUALITY boxes. You can't imagine just how generous all of you were when you brought us: toothpaste, soap, socks and treasures untold. Some of you gave us money which we have used to purchase 112 plastic boxes and 64 pair of socks for next season. When everyone contributes according to their ability the results are simply FABULOUS. Thank you - for sharing a great deal of love and gratitude this Christmas Season. We are all so Blessed.

by Sue Shirley-Howard



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

- ✦ **December 22** – Midweek Advent Service of Scripture and Song at 11 am in-person and online.
- ✦ **December 24** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. A Whimsical Telling of the Birth of Jesus at 5:30 p.m. in-person. Communion Service with the St. Philip Choir at 8 p.m. with John Wurster preaching, in-person and online.
- ✦ **December 26** – First Sunday of Christmas. One service at 11 a.m. **(no 9 a.m. service)** with Keatan King preaching, in-person and online.
- ✦ **January 2** – Second Sunday of Christmas Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The first communion of 2022 with John Wurster preaching, in-person and online.

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip changed broker services to Frost Bank in the beginning of 2021. We ask you to call:

Yvette Webb at Frost Bank – 713-388-1231 for transaction information. Our new account number is #037-293183.

Please let the bookkeeper know you are making a stock donation. You may email bookkeeper@saintphilip.net.

If you have any questions, you may always contact Ada Fuller at 713-306-8267 or amariepoet@gmail.com.



Many thanks to those who have already submitted pledges of financial support for 2022. The stewardship committee is hoping to wrap-up our campaign, so the committee will soon be making follow-up calls. Pledge cards can be returned to the church office anytime or placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

RACISM IN AMERICA

Did you know that, according to a study by the Public Religion Research Institute, *the more racist attitudes a person holds, the more likely he or she is to identify as a white Christian?* This shocking finding was one of the topics of discussion at the last meeting of St. Philip's Social Justice Study Group. We invite all concerned St. Philipians who wonder what can be done about systemic racism in this country to join our study group.

We meet by Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., for one hour; the next meeting will be **January 4**. Interested persons can send an email to welcome@saintphilip.net and put *PSJ Study Group* in the subject line. The current study book is *Race in America: Christians Respond to the Crisis*. Our next discussion will focus on chapters 3 and 4, ["The white and non-white binary."](#)

Sponsored by the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On Friday, December 3, the annual POP Shines at Christmastime luncheon was held via Zoom. They honor Volunteers Lay Chaplains and the beautiful ways God has worked through them during their time with patients and caregivers in hospitals throughout the year. Churches, organizations, POP staff and board, and Spiritual Care Volunteers, gathered in fellowship to celebrate the ministry and grow closer in POP's long-established community. Sue Howard, who has been involved with POP since August 2016, was honored with The Elizabeth Mason Marshall Award which recognizes POP Spiritual Care Volunteers who exhibit a faithful countenance of humility and servant-hearted empathy while offering spiritual community and prayer for God's people who are sick and suffering the hospital. It is all the more meaningful that Mrs. Marshall created this avenue of celebrating qualities considered to be exemplary, and yet found most supremely in the humble.



Reaching for the Stars

For Sarah Valentina Hernandez Solache, the colorful city of Zitácuaro in the highlands of Mexico — where millions of Monarch butterflies bathe the fields and forests in a sea of orange during their annual migration — was, and always will be, home. But, despite its beauty, Valentina admits that it simply wasn't a safe environment for her.

"I had an amazing childhood there," said Valentina, who was raised Presbyterian in her local church. "Mexico is beautiful, with the best climate and the best food ever. But it is also a really dangerous country."

The ongoing violence against young girls that terrorized her community while she was growing up was one of the primary reasons her parents decided to send her, like her older sister before her, to pursue her education in the U.S. at the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas. Established in 1911, the school is an international, college-preparatory, boarding school related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that motivates and equips young people for lives of Christian leadership in the global community.

"We met the school thanks to our church, which has a relationship with Pan Am," Valentina said, referring to her alma mater by its common nickname. "They send scholarship award letters to people all over Mexico."

The experience was life-changing and transformative. Both sisters are now distinguished graduates of Pan Am. Valentina is a pre-med student on a full scholarship at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, and her sister is a Houston-based architect.

"Coming to Pan Am and to this Christian community is where I actually found myself and my faith, and where I knew that I loved God," she said. "I found my blessing here."

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, like Pan Am, prepare young people to become leaders in the Church and the world.

"The generous people who give to Christmas Joy give us scholarships and the opportunity to continue our education in the United States," she said. "I will always be grateful for that. But beyond that, they have also given us a lot of hope. All of the things I always dreamed about, thanks to them, they are making me feel like it can actually happen."

The president of Pan Am, Dr. Gordon A. Govens, states, "Through the sharing of the Christmas Joy Offering — and prayers — every student receives the gift of reaching his or her full potential." In other words, with our gifts to this offering, hope turns into dreams. Dreams turn into reality. And all of a sudden, those stars are within reach.

You may give to the Christmas Joy Offering throughout December in worship at St. Philip or through the online giving portal in MyStPhilip.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. At our next meeting on **January 13** at 7:00 p.m., we will discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah; watch your email for details of where we will be meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at nnl@lambrightlaw.com

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER—A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday continues with Zoom sessions Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Email John for details and to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net. The class will not meet **December 22** or **December 29**.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—Returns **January 7**. Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets in person each Friday in the Dining Room from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We are currently studying the book *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Also, while there is an in person meeting, that meeting is carried live via Zoom for those who want to join the meeting but are either out of town or prefer to meet from a distance. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to be a part of this interesting group.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP will have its next meeting Tuesday, **January 4**, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The study book is *Race in America; Christians respond to the crisis*, edited by David Maxwell and Laura Cheifetz. The book is available from Amazon or from the PC(USA) bookstore. Persons interested in joining the group can send an email to welcom@stphilip.net and type PSJ Study Group in the subject line.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS is meeting again each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in Room 204 of the Education Building. We will resume our study of the last ten Psalms with Dr. Robert Alter's *The Book of Psalms* (2007) and then return to the Kingdom of Israel at I Kings 2.13 with Dr. Alter's *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us for more discoveries in Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—9:40 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. by Zoom - **January 2** - "Foster Care for Texas Children in Crisis" Learn how Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services helps children heal from trauma by supporting foster and adoptive families to be a safe, loving, nurturing family, where children heal through connection and grow to their potential. Presented by Laura Fleming - Senior Development Officer for PCHS. **January 9** - "State of the Presbytery of New Covenant and Preview of the 2022 Meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA." Focus on the challenges and opportunities facing the presbytery in the year 2022 and preparation for the 225th. General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, **June 18 - July 9**. Presented by Rev. Lynn Hargrove General Presbyterian + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process for Presbytery of New Covenant. **January 16** - "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow for St. Philip" Presented by Rev. Dr. John Wurster. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

LENT CLASSES—The Education Committee will offer a 5 week class during Lent called "Experiencing God," an opportunity to see how the Holy Spirit connects with people in unique and personal ways in their daily life. Two or three church members will informally share one of their spiritual practices for 10-15 minutes. There will be also time for individuals to try these different ways to encounter God. The goal is to encourage and learn from one another on our journeys of faith.

If you feel God might be calling you to share in this way, please contact Betsy Boston at ehbluzerne@aol.com or Omar Rouchon at omar@saintphilip.net.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2021

Called Session Meeting – October 17, 2021

- Session received into membership Abby Tieken by reaffirmation of faith.

NOVEMBER 2021

Stated Session Meeting – November 16, 2021

- Session examined ruling elders-elect in the class of 2024, Melissa Aldrich, Beth Atkinson, Walker Fair, Angelina Fonseca, Nancy Higgs, Susan Leonard, and Jon Martin; and voted to sustain their examinations and that they be ordained and/or installed to the office on January 9, 2022 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- Session endorsed Joseph Webster's Eagle Scout project to create portable COVID stations providing disposable masks and hand sanitizer that can be moved around the campus for events.
- Session approved an amendment to the section of the agreement between Covenant Solar Power and St. Philip Presbyterian Church that pertains to an option for St. Philip to purchase the equipment at the conclusion of the service term.
- Session approved holding a single Worship Service at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, December 5, 2021, for Lessons and Carols.
- Session approved holding a single Worship Service at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, December 26, 2021, the Sunday after Christmas Day.
- Session approved the 2022 schedule of the Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion.
- Session elected John Lemen to serve as Clerk of Session for 2022.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Property Committee has approved certain items on the list for Reserve for Replacement.

Called Session Meeting – November 21, 2021

- Session received into membership David and Sherri Dees by letter of transfer from Ridgefield - Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church, Crystal Lake, Illinois.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

As you may or may not know, we order our Christmas and Easter flowers from Brookwood annually and they deliver them to the church. This year we received this thank you card from one of their citizens which we wanted to share with you.

If you are still looking for Christmas presents, they have multiple stores around the Houston area or you can order online. No delivery before Christmas.

(<https://brookwoodstore.org>)



This card was lovingly painted by

Vicki

a citizen of the
Brookwood Community.

BROOKWOOD
www.brookwoodcommunity.org

Through the Grace of God, The Brookwood Community provides
an educational environment that creates meaningful work, builds a sense of belong
awakens genuine purpose in the lives of adults with disabilities.



Dear Ms castle
Thank you for buying our
pretty poinsettias. You
help give us purpose!
Love,
Eddie - Brookwood citizen

PW RETREAT T-SHIRTS

We would like to open up to everyone the opportunity to purchase the retreat-shirt. It is a black, long-sleeve t-shirt that has been designed with the Wise Women artwork from Jan Richardson on the front of the shirt. If we receive a minimum of 10 shirts the cost will be \$25 each. If we ordered 25, cost would be \$19.00. At either price there will be an additional cost for larger sizes: XXL are +\$1.50, XXXL are +\$2.00. Due to cost variance, we are just asking if you will be buying a shirt. If yes indicate size. Once we have the total number of shirts being ordered we will let you know how much you owe. They would be in by **January 22**.

Please contact Jan Meyer (jsmeyer9990@gmail.com), Judith Hiott (judith.hiott@outlook.com) or call the church (713-622-4807) for any questions.

The Presbyterian Women's retreat program will be *Epiphany: Gifts of Wise Women*, drawing from retreat materials created by Jan Richardson—artist, writer, and Methodist pastor—to connect as PWs.



Duerr Lecture Series

The Duerr Lecture Series will return for its 25th anniversary with a full program of preaching and lectures, **February 20, 21, and 22, 2022**. We are excited to offer all lectures both in person or by live-streaming. All lectures are free and open to everyone.

"Discovering the Pastoral Christology of Luke"

Speaker for the series is Rev. Dr. Christopher Edmonston, Pastor of White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC, leading us through a deep exploration of Luke 7. In Luke 7 Jesus expands our understanding of inclusion, attends to deep grief, uses his authority to offer new teachings about long-held beliefs, and gives an example of how we might engage with enemies. In a time rife with division and conflict, the pastoral nature of Jesus gives the gift of a fresh alternative for engagement in the church and the world.

Dr. Edmonston will be preaching at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and presenting lectures each evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Put the dates on your calendar and join us in person or online for this time of spiritual renewal.

ST. PHILIP SECURITY ALARM

The property committee has recommended that we utilize the security alarm on campus. This means anyone that enters the Administration Building, Sanctuary/Education Building or Fellowship Hall outside of business hours and scheduled St. Philip activities will have to have a code to deactivate the alarm. If you have any keys or an access card to the church facilities, please email Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net and she will provide you with a code. Due to the holidays and staff orientation on the equipment this will go into effect **February 1**. Lorrie must receive notice from you by **January 15**.

Merry Christmas

Thank you to those who have contributed poinsettias this Christmas to adorn our chancel.

<i>Given By:</i>	<i>Those we honor...</i>
Anonymous	Kate Burkart for her steadfast commitment to Peacemaking and Social Justice
Anonymous	With thanks to Kate Burkart for her significant contributions to the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee during her tenure as committee chair
Lee & Bob Ardell	The pastors & staff of St. Philip
Kate Burkhart	The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, who it has been my privilege to lead these last four years
Bebe Burns	To the glory of God and in gratitude for the St. Philip community
Lorrie Castle	The staff and committees of St. Philip that I work with
Frautschi Family	Amy & Gopal Frautschi on their first Sabbath together
Frautschi Family	T. Stewart & Shirley Coffman
Frautschi Family	St. Philip church
Dick & Sue Howard	Our St. Philip family
Suzanne & David Kerr	The St. Philip Choir
Walter & Margaret King	In gratitude for our wonderful staff at St. Philip
Gene & Florence McKelvey	John Wurster & the SPPC Congregation
Liz Miguez	Stephanie Miguez
Bonnie Moore	My children, Zach Moore, Clint Manley and Audra Manley Gonzalez.
Cathy Patterson	The St. Philip Mission Committee
David & Hallie Spence	Mary Linda Williams
Hope Wilmarth	Isabelle, Jeb, Arden, Gertrude, Clara & Elliot Lance
<i>Given By:</i>	<i>In our memories...</i>
Orlean Anderson	Ruth & Orlean McCallum
Orlean Anderson	Kenneth Anderson, Jr.
Jamie, Anne Marie, Sydney and Samantha Benard	Kenneth Allan Henick
Sharon Coufal	Alan Coufal
Liz & Steve Crowell	Rick Holzinger
Mary Currie	My parents, Dick & Frances Miller
Mary Currie	My brother, Martyn Miller
Carl & Janet Eskridge	John and Rita Hannah
Nancy Higgs	My mother, Dorothy McMillan
John Lemen	My parents, Joseph and Virginia Lemen
Jane Malczewskyj	Loved ones
Jan Meyer	My parents, Don and Valerie Meyer
Dale Miller	Barger Miller
Peg Palisin	Jean Alan Hartsfiel & Eddie Daw
Peg Palisin	Percy Arvard Smith
Rhonda Sands & Jennifer Wilson	Mary Ann Sands, wife of Tom Sands & mother of Rhonda Sands
Rhonda Sands & Jennifer Wilson	Rod Sands, son of Tom Sands & brother of Rhonda Sands
Rhonda Sands & Jennifer Wilson	Helen Canaris Wilson, wife of Bill Wilson & mother of Jennifer Wilson
Jenilee Simmons	Douglass Simmons
David & Hallie Spence	Paxton Williams, Chris Spence & Tomi Spence
Ruthie & Al Waldrop	Our parents, Nancy & Kenan Rand and Florence & Allister Waldrop
Hope Wilmarth	Lance Wilmarth
John Wurster & Deb Burks	Darnall Burks

IN OUR PRAYERS

Congratulations to Amy Frantschi and Gopal Athreya who were married on December 18 at St. Philip. (picture—3 generations of St. Philippians: Ann Frantschi, Amy Frantschi, and Shirley Coffman)

Mickey McGall Meyers and family upon the death of her cousin James Graham McGall last week.

Janet Hess and family upon the death of her mother Sarah Lindley, December 11.

St. Philippians and their families—Jack Fox; Jo Helland; Beth Flowers; Lee Larkin; Janet Davis; Susan Huffman; Joyce Fugit; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Alma Fonseca—mother of Angelina Fonseca; Bill Polk—brother-in-law of Sharon Webb; Darryl Cazes—brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Gretchen Everhart—niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Mac & Beverly Wilson—parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore—mother of Chuck Johnson; Dottie Laas and family—cousin of Sam Fisher; Shirley Boggus—grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound—Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians—Janet Arnold—friend of Eleanor Grant; Auden McCarty—friend of Mary McGuire; Ted & Susan Hirtz—friends of Jacqueline and Bill Taylor; Paul English; Matt Scalapino and Laura Chilton—friends of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Lavon Thomas—friend of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker—friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin and Gary Willis.

We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those who watch and wait.

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

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. Pledge cards are being accepted in the Church Office or you can make your pledge in MyStPhilip.



Next edition: January 4; Deadline December 29—3:00 p.m.

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.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



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