

PHILIP-EYE

EAGLE SCOUT FUNDRAISER FOR SANITATION STATIONS

by Joseph Webster



As the congregation of St. Philip returns to the pews, the risk for contracting COVID remains. This is why my Eagle project is focused on taking care of the health of the St. Philip congregation. For my Eagle project, I am building three sanitization stations for St. Philip Presbyterian Church. These portable stations have space on the tabletop to provide masks and hand sanitizer. There will also be a shelf where additional supplies can be stored. These stations will help newcomers to the church feel safe, secure, and welcome to worship at the church as they can be moved to make supplies available near the entrances to the church or wherever they are needed.

I chose to do my Eagle project with St. Philip since this is my home church. This is the church that I was born into and where I was baptized. It is where I have been raised and where I was confirmed into the membership of the Presbyterian Church. I am proud to be working to earn my Eagle Scout rank and thrilled that St. Philip is the beneficiary of my project and my work. My fundraising goal is \$500, which will cover the material costs of lumber, hardware, and wheels.

To donate to my project, visit the St. Philip website and click on the page where secure contributions can be made. In the dropdown tab, please select "BS Eagle Project" to contribute designated funds for my project. I thank you all in advance for your support of my project and our congregation's health.

Please see the next page for pictures of project in progress.

SAVE THE DATE: MISSION DAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

We invite you to prepare now for the chance to support our Mission Partners through a drive-thru at St. Philip to collect items including:

- ☼ Medical scrubs to benefit the Beacon (male and female, sizes S, M, L)
- ☼ Items for hygiene kits to benefit CCSC
 - 15 ounce bottles of shampoo and/or conditioner
 - Adult and children's toothbrushes
 - Toothpaste
 - Deodorant
- ☼ \$25-50 HEB gift cards to benefit students of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

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

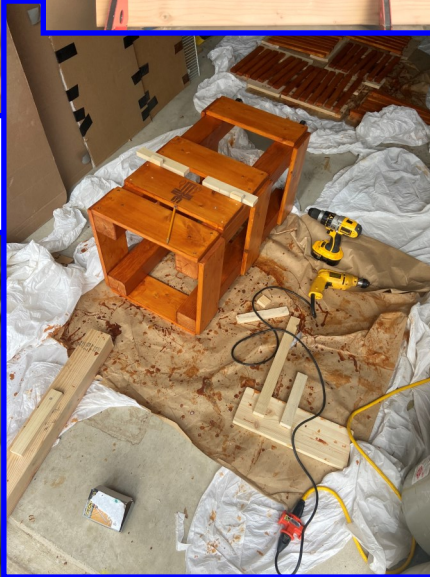
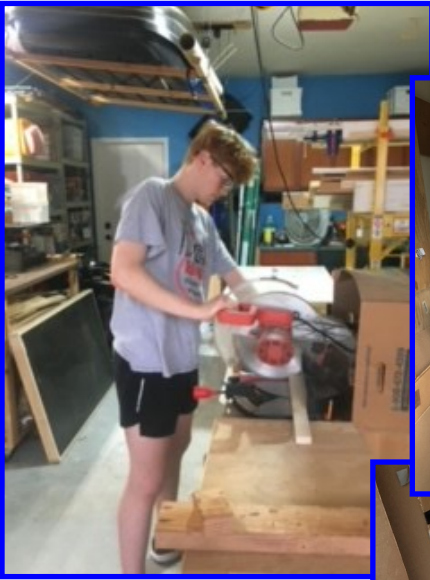
Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Kenya Goodwine
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita



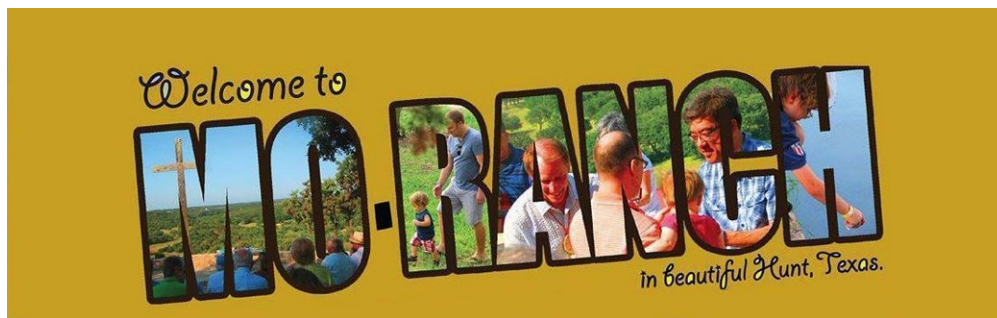
Brian Webster (father) "Jospeh had lots of help from many people...the church, his school, scouts. He brought together several communities to deliver the project."

Bill Stubbs officially joined Saint Philip Presbyterian Church (SPCC) on January 16 with his fiancé, Kurt Grether. He has been attending Saint Philip's (SPPC) for roughly four years after leaving Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Bill has a keen sense of humor, joking that he discovered that lack of membership did not prevent him from being asked to serve on church committees. We are grateful for his participation in the mission committee for two years. Bill, a renowned interior designer, grew up in Gonzales, Texas, and attended the International Institute of Design in Washington. What he wanted most to share with SPPC was that for him, church and his belief in God are core to his life and relationships. He noted that the friendly congregation, ministers, staff, and LGBTQ inclusivity were reasons that helped him decide to join the St. Philip family. We are grateful to the friends who introduced Bill to St. Philip's Presbyterian Church and for his decision to finally join in membership!



Meet Kurt Grether (R in Photo), a Senior IT Project Manager. He is transferring his membership from Living Word Lutheran Church in Katy, Texas. Graduated from Texas A&M University, Kurt works as a Senior IT Project Manager at Ardagh Group. His interests include cooking, music, travel, and skiing. Kurt noted that the friendly congregation, minister, staff, and music program helped him decide to join St. Philips. With his upcoming wedding ceremony to Bill Stubbs, Kurt thought the time was fitting to join in membership. Please reach out, welcome, and thank Kurt for joining us in membership.

Please extend a warm welcome Bill and Kurt!



Join us for a long weekend of fellowship at Mo-Ranch in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, where we'll pray, play, and relax together as a church family. This year's event begins after supper on Thursday and continues through worship on Sunday morning.

You may pay in full at the time of registration or in three installments (**February 28, March 28, April 28**). Confirmations and bills will be sent out by email. (Please be sure that the email you provide is correct and is an address you check regularly.) All registrations must be complete and paid by **February 28, 2022**. (First payment, if paying in installments.) No refunds can be made after **February 28**. If you do not cancel your reservation by that date, you must pay for your room whether you go or not.

WE REGRET WE CANNOT HOLD SPACE FOR ANYONE WITHOUT A COMPLETED REGISTRATION.

PRICING:

Pricing for a room in Wynne, Flato, or Pheasant Run lodge depends on how many adults will share the room. Prices for adults include lodging and all meals from breakfast Friday through breakfast Sunday. Children and youth are billed only for their meals (but must be accompanied by at least one adult per room).

If you wish to have Thursday dinner at Mo-Ranch, you must select that separately. Cost: Adults and Youth \$15; Children (ages 4-11) \$11.

WYNNE LODGE/FLATO LODGE (each room has two queen beds)

Adult (single accommodation): \$491
 Adult (room shared by 2 adults): \$299 each
 Adult (room shared by 3 adults): \$235 each
 Adult (room shared by 4 adults): \$203 each
 Youth 12-18 in same room: \$86 per child
 Children 4-11: \$62 per child

PHEASANT RUN (most rooms have two beds)

Adult (single accommodation): \$461
 Adult (room shared by 2 adults): \$284 each
 Adult (room shared by 3 adults): \$225 each
 Adult (room shared by 4 adults): \$195 each
 Youth 12-18 in same room: \$86 per child
 Children 4-11: \$62 per child

PAYMENT:

At the end of the online registration process, you will have the option of paying immediately by credit card or paying by mail or in person at the church office.

If you are setting up a payment plan, you will choose the option to Pay In Person/Mail. Indicate Payment Plan in the memo box. You may then make payments in the office or sign in to MyStPhilip and make payments to the Mo-Ranch Fund on **February 28, March 28, and April 28**.

Sign me/us up!

Fun Stuff

Amazing facts, dumb jokes, crazy ads, brain stuff, and quizzes regarding the Bible. Stuff you probably know, that which you didn't know you knew, and secret stuff. I hope you enjoy my Fun Stuff corner.

—Lorrie Castle

Amazing Fact

The word God or Lord appears in every book of the Bible except Esther and Song of Songs.

Quiz

Isaiah saw angels with six wings in the temple—with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet. What did they do with the other two wings?

- They covered their stomachs.
- They reached out to Isaiah.
- They fanned the flame on the altar.
- They flew.

Dumb Jokes

Q: What Old Testament book must have been written by shepherds?

D; Lamb-entations.

SAVE THE DATE

LENT VBS

MARCH 5

9 AM TO 2 PM

ALL CHILDREN AGES 3– 5TH GRADE
ARE WELCOMED

THERE IS NO COST

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING AND COMMUNION OFFERING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022

The Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from one youth group: ***“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”*** As millions of Americans gather to watch football on February 13 and dig into greasy, delicious game-day meals, others will have a different kind of day because, sadly, food insecurity and hunger plague over 42 million Americans today.

Through this offering, we are transforming the time of excess surrounding Super Bowl weekend into a time of compassionate giving. Today's communion offering benefits Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston. IM's Meals on Wheels program delivers meals to approximately 4,900 homebound seniors and disabled adults in Houston as well as surrounding counties in our metro area. Meals on Wheels also provides additional food to about a quarter of their most frail and isolated clients. The nutritional support provided by Meals on Wheels helps people stay independent and in their own homes, something that has been especially important in this pandemic.

You can find more information on the Meals on Wheels Program at IMGH at <https://www.imgh.org/meals-wheels-greater-houston/>. You can give securely to the February Communion Offering through the MyStPhilip link, or send a check to the church office, with “February Communion Offering” in the memo line.

We thank you for your loving help in feeding those who hunger in Houston.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for **February 13**, immediately following the 11 am worship service. Members may attend the meeting in-person or online. The agenda for the meeting includes review of the 2021 annual report, presentation of the approved 2022 budget, action on the pastors' terms of calls, election of a trustee, and election of members of the congregational nominating committee. David Castle will be nominated to serve a three-year term as trustee. Lee Ardell, Chuck Johnson, and Jeanette Wennenweser will be nominated to serve two-year terms on the congregational nominating committee. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

CAN ST. PHILIP BECOME A CARBON SINK?

The November 14, 2021, issue of the Philip-Eye explored the concept of a carbon footprint — the total amount of greenhouse gases that we generate by our actions, individually, as a household, or as a larger organization. This article explores the carbon footprint our church makes — and we have some good news to report!

First, let's look at what activities generate carbon. In the case of St. Philip, we generate carbon in three ways on campus. The largest by far is the electricity we consume for lights, air conditioning, and heating. In a recent 12-month period we consumed 456,000 kWh (kilowatt hours). This equates to about 356 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the most prevalent of the greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.

How else does St. Philip generate CO₂ on our campus? We are a small user of natural gas, principally for kitchen activities. This contributed about 3 tons in the recent 12-month period. Waste disposal is the third source. Since we recycle everything that we can, this is also a small contributor, accounting for an estimated 2 tons annually. Our total estimated on-campus carbon footprint, absent steps taken to shrink it, would be 361 tons. Now let's add in an estimate of the impact of staff members driving to work and driving during the workday. (This is essential to the ongoing life of our church, so we should include it.) Assuming this driving adds up to 40,000 miles per year, the contribution to the carbon footprint is 13 tons. This brings the “all in” total to 374 annual tons with electricity accounting for 95%. We could draw an even larger circle around the St. Philip carbon footprint by including, for example, the carbon emissions from everything we purchase for the church. Air travel by employees as part of their jobs could also be added to the footprint. We do not think these items would add significantly to our footprint, so we limited our evaluation to the factors listed.

Here is the good news! In August 2021, St. Philip changed its electricity purchases to a source that acquires 100% of its electricity from green sources (wind and solar)! In addition, the solar panels we installed on the roof of the Education Building in the middle of 2020 contribute electricity equivalent to 44 tons per year of CO₂. This has the effect of “releasing” the equivalent amount of purchased green electricity, making it available for use elsewhere in the Houston-area grid. This is more than enough to offset our other sources of carbon, specifically from natural gas consumption, waste disposal, and estimated staff driving needs. That means that it can be argued that St. Philip is now a net consumer of carbon, or a **carbon sink**!

What about the future? The Property Committee and the Earth Care Team of the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee are jointly considering two additional projects

that would make St. Philip a more significant carbon consumer (or sink). One of these is installing solar panels on the roof of the Administration Building, which would likely require replacing that old roof. The second is installing a modestly sized electric vehicle (EV) charging station that would give members an opportunity to charge their electric vehicles while they are on campus. More evaluation is needed before either of these future steps is approved and budgeted, but if implemented, they could add another 60–80 tons annually to St. Philip's net carbon capture. Here is an exciting question this raises: Could St. Philip be a model of good environmental citizenship for other faith communities in Houston and beyond?



St. Philip Education Building Solar Panels

NEW REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2



In response to interest from the congregation, the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee is raising the required funds to sponsor the resettlement of an Afghan refugee family through Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston. To sponsor a family IMGH is looking for a six-month commitment, and fund-raising for rent is part of that, so a minimum financial commitment is \$7200—about \$1200 per month. The Mission Committee made a significant contribution to this project, and we have a donor who has offered to match gifts up to a total of \$1,000. If you are interested in contributing to the project, you can make a donation online and select the fund “**Afghan Refugee Family**” or send a check to St. Philip. If you would like to participate in this project in another way or learn more about the project, email the Peacemaking and Social Justice committee at PSJ@saintphilip.net.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. At our next meeting on **February 10** at 7:00 p.m., we will discuss *Chaos on Catnet* by Naomi Kritzer; 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.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—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 tonight, Tuesday, **February 1**, 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. Persons interested in joining the group can send an email to welcomer@saintphilip.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.

LENT CLASSES—The Education Committee will offer a five-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.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—9:40 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. by Zoom - **February 6** - Black History Month - *The Voting Rights Act of 1965* and *The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021* - The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act responds to current conditions in voting today by restoring the full protections of the original, bipartisan Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was last reauthorized by Congress in 2006, but gutted by the Supreme Court in 2013. Following the Shelby County decision seven years ago, several states passed sweeping voter suppression laws that disproportionately prevent minorities, the elderly, and the youth from voting. The bill provides the tools to address these discriminatory practices and seeks to protect all Americans' right to vote. Presented by Dr. Nancy Beck Young - Moores Professor of History & Chair of the University of Houston History Department. Dr. Young is a historian of twentieth-century American politics. Her research questions how ideology has shaped public policy and political institutions. Her current book manuscript, *Legislating Prosperity: Congress and the Early New Deal*, is under review with Oxford University Press. **February 13** - St. Philip Mission Partner - *Presbyterian PanAmerican School* - a Christian college preparatory school that educates and empowers young adults for leadership in the global community. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

PW CIRCLE MEETINGS

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate, so please email Lorrie to request the link: welcomer@saintphilip.net.

Monday Morning Saints

Second Monday of each month—10:00 a.m.

Sunday Circle

3rd Sunday of each month—12:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle

1st Thursday of each month—7:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

Due to the latest Covid surge, the Presbyterian Women's retreat at Journey Retreat Center has been rescheduled for March 25-27. Keatan and Anne Wilson will be leading "Gifts of Wise Women". Women who are already registered will be automatically registered for the new date. If you are registered and unable to attend the new date, contact Lorrie at the church office to get a refund. Registration has been reopened and you can register on MyStPhilip.com. The cost for the entire weekend is \$170.00. Saturday only is \$40.00. Scholarships are available - please contact Judith (judith.hiott@outlook.com) or Jan (jsmeyer9990@gmail.com).



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.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, February 20

11:00 a.m. Worship

“Q & A with Jesus”

Psalm 96, Luke 7:18-23

7:00 p.m.

“The Biblical Underpinnings of Christology”

Fellowship Hall & Live-streamed

Monday, February 21

7:00 p.m.

“Christological Confessions and Jesus in the Reformed Tradition”

Fellowship Hall & Live-streamed

Tuesday, February 22

7:00 p.m.

“A Case for a Pastoral Christology for the 21st Century”

Fellowship Hall & Live-streamed



Child labor and desperate poverty among farmers in the cocoa industry are still in the news as we approach Valentine's Day, one of the largest days for chocolate sales. Most major corporations

don't advertise where their chocolate comes from and if the cacao farmers were paid fairly.

Equal Exchange works directly with small-scale farmer cooperatives in Peru, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Togo as part of long-term, fair trading partnerships. Equal Exchange's products meet the strict standards established by the Fair Trade Federation. This includes no child labor or slavery.

Show your support for these farmers, their sustainable farming methods and fair workers policies by visiting our Equal Exchange table on **February 6** for all your Valentine candy needs. We will also have the usual coffee, tea, mangos, olive oil and cashews on offer, in the Gathering Area before and after the 11 a.m. worship service.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Celebrate your wedding anniversary, family birthdays, or memorialize your mother and father by sponsoring the chancel flowers on Sunday morning. The Flower Calendar for 2022 has gone digital; please sign up to sponsor the flowers on the date which you prefer. If you have any questions, contact Lorrie Castle at 713-622-4807 or lorrie@saintphilip.net. Sandra Truxillo, Flower Coordinator will call you the week you have chosen to sponsor flowers to discuss the type of flowers and the message you would like in the bulletin. The standard arrangement is \$100; and you will be billed at the end of the month.

Click here to pick your date: [Flower Sign Up](#)

Thank you.

ST. PHILIP MISSION PARTNER: PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOMES AND SERVICES

Hope Wilmarth, St. Philip liaison

St. Philip has had a long and productive relationship with Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) as a Mission Partner. I would encourage everyone to learn more about the foster care services PCHAS offers on their website, www.pchas.org. One way St Philipians can get involved is to write a personal note to a foster child in the program. Valentine's Day is approaching and this would be such a great way to get started. If you are interested, please contact Hope Wilmarth by phone: 281-744-8540 or by email: hlwilmarth@hotmail.com.

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Pat Lindsay; Tom Sands; Roderick James; Lee Larkin; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Trip Merklein—nephew of Elizabeth Duerr; 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—Lynda Shepherd—friend of Nancy Higgs; Bruce Witte—friend of Denis and Janet Martin; 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; Rob Bond—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: February 15; Deadline February 10—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.



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