

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Justin LanghamDirector of Music

Dr. Matthew DirstOrganist

Diana Weiss
Interim Art Director

Wilbert Parada Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Custodian

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill

Editor Emerita



March 5, 2024 Volume 68, Issue 5

PHILIP-EYE

ST. PHILIP COMMUNITY GARDEN GROWING IN GRACE

In a nook on the back side of the Fellowship Hall, the St. Philip garden continues to produce a bounty of vegetables to share with neighbors in need. In 2023, our two raised beds produced about 350 pounds of produce, all donated to the CCSC Emergency Services food pantry. This total included 200 pounds of tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, peppers, lettuces, and greens grown in the spring and summer, and almost 150 pounds of sweet potatoes harvested in October and November. The brutal summer heat was especially hard on the tomatoes, which reduced their productivity, but the garden did pretty well, all things considered. Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers, whose planting, caring, weeding, harvesting, and delivering continue to make this mission project flourish, with God's help. Our donations add fresh vegetables to the packages of staple non-perishable items that CCSC Emergency Services clients receive.

We will be planting the garden for spring/summer 2024 on **Saturday, March 9,** beginning at 9:30 a.m. Please join in for some "garden therapy" and fellowship. New volunteers are always welcome—no green thumb required! You can just show up on **March 9.** Would you like to know more about the St. Philip garden? Contact Cathy Patterson: cpatters@swbell.net







Join us for worship each Wednesday at noon as we journey through the season of Lent. Guest preachers from across the area will lead us. Lunch will be available in the Gathering Area at 12:30 p.m. Here's the schedule for this year's series:

March 6: Kevin Keaton, Board of Pensions regional representative;

March 13: Becky Downs, pastor of John Knox Presbyterian Church;

March 20: Jim Dement, former St. Philip member and interim pastor in El Campo.

E-VOTIONS

Again this Lent, John Wurster offers daily e-votions. These brief biblical reflections are sent by e-mail each morning. To join the e-votions list, send a note to john@sainthphilip.net. Those subscribed for last year continue on the list for 2024.

LENTEN LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GROUP

The ancient desert mystics believed that scripture was like a love letter written to us by God, and the meditative scriptural reflection known as *Lectio Divina* ("divine reading") assumes that God speaks to us intimately, God is already praying in us, and we'll experience a profound encounter with the heart of God, rather than an intellectual study of scripture. Keatan will guide the group through the four cycles of Lectio (read, reflect, respond, rest) every Monday morning at 9:00-9:20 a.m. for the season of Lent. To receive the Zoom link sent early Monday mornings, email Keatan at: keatan@saintphilip.net

HOLY WEEK MUSICAL MEDITATION

As part of our Holy Week calendar, St. Philip Presbyterian will be hosting an afternoon "Musical Meditation" on Holy Saturday, **March 30** at 5 p.m. This year's theme is "Godly Sorrow" (with reference to 2 Corinthians 7:10) featuring soprano Julia Fox and violist Yvonne Smith, alongside St. Philip organist, Matthew Dirst. Major works will include "Miroir de peine" by Henrik Andriessen for soprano and organ, Hindemith's "Trauermusik" for viola and organ, music from BWV 18 by Bach, and other selections. A free-will offering will be taken.

SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS MARCH 24, 31, AND APRIL 7





Loving Houston





SPPC volunteers at Plant-It-Forward







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 104 ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-5—Room 105 YOUTH—Grades 6-12—Room 205

CHURCH & SOCIETY -Room 201—Join us from 9:30 a.m.—10:40 a.m. with presentations in person and by Zoom. Mar. 10 - "Climate Crisis as a Moral and Gospel Issue" - Presented by Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap, the author of Following Jesus in a Warming World - A Christian Call to Climate Action - Rev. Meyaard-Schaap is an author and activist with over ten years of experience education and mobilizing Christians around the world to address the climate crisis as an act of discipleship and neighbor-love. -

March 17 - Citizen's Climate Lobby - Update on Current Legislation on Climate Change - Citizens' Climate Lobby is an international grassroots environmental group that trains and supports volunteers to build relationships with their elected representatives in order to influence climate policy. Mark Herranen will present federal legislation that is helping our society move toward a renewable energy economy. He will share information about efforts of the Texas State Action Team of Citizens Climate Lobby to educate state legislators on the need to facilitate the expansion of clean energy in Texas. Mark Herranen is a member of the Houston Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, and is involved in outreach to the local Houston community to help build the political will for addressing global warming. - Mark is a long-time resident of Houston, and attends church at the Live Oak Friends Meeting. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety stphilip@comcast.net.

FAITH & LIFE – Room 200—An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

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

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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. Children will be able to participate in this during the worship service.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to john@saintphilip.net. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

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

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **March 14** at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss *Gunfight: My Battle Against the Industry That Radicalized America* by Ryan Busse. So watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOW-SHIP—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 a.m. We are studying *They Walked With God* by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used them. It lets us know that He has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

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; to be directed to a group leader please email:

welcome@saintphilip.net.

Monday Morning Saints—2nd Mon. of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Circle—3rd Sun. of each month @ 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle—1st Thurs. of each month
@ 7:00 p.m.

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Philip Presbyterian

Wednesday, March 13 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Donor Coach**

sponsor code: 0496

FREE FOR DONORS **Rodeo T-Shirt**

Scan Below For Appointments:



Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.





EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.











@commitforlife | #commitforlife

MISSION COMMITTEE

EASTER 2024 DONATION DRIVE AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Join the St. Philip March 2024 Easter mission project by donating items to fill Easter boxes benefiting The Women's Home residents. St. Philip members can also make a monetary donation and the mission committee will purchase the items still needed at the end of the collection period to fill the boxes. Drop off your donated items in the Gathering Area or Church Office collection boxes through March 17.

All members are also invited to assemble the 60 boxes on Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m. in the church mission room. This is a fun service project for all ages and an opportunity for the St. Philip community to come together in service during the Easter holiday! Sign up for the Easter box assembly in the Gathering area on Sundays or email mission@saintphilip.net to RSVP your attendance. You can drop off any amount you wish to give of any item on the supplies list. Please no used items, only new unopened donations. Please no jumbo size bottles, preferably travel sizes 2 oz. to 4 oz. and regular size toiletries 11 oz. to 14 oz.

Shampoo Conditioner Body Wash Toothbrush Tooth Paste Dental Floss Deodorant Mouthwash Nail Files Nail Polish Hair Ties/Elastics

Razors Lotion Lip Balm Tissue Packs Socks

Reading Glasses

Costume Jewelry

Scarves

Small make-up samples or "free gift" type items

Playing Cards **Iournals**

Day Planners/Calendars

Note Cards Umbrellas

Mini Writing Tablets

Pens/Pencils

Individual Miniature packages of Easter candies Packets of Herbal Tea

(Caffeine Free)

The Women's Home builds communities that strengthen women and supports families as they reclaim their stability. The Women's Home operates two affordable housing communities and a collaborative community service center that help families thrive. The service center offers primary and behavioral health care, youth development services, adult education, workforce development training, basic needs assistance, and other wrap-around support services.

The Women's Home employs a unique WholeLife® Model of care approach, and they help women create and achieve goals to improve their well-being in six areas emotional, financial, physical, social, spiritual, and vocational. The Women's Home goal is for clients to acquire and maintain the four pillars of personal independence - mental stability, sobriety, a sustaining source of income and a safe, permanent home. Of the clients that completed the intensive phase, 96% established mental stability, 100% maintained sobriety, and 6% chose to continue their recovery journey in the supportive treatment phase. Among the clients who participated in the supportive phase for at least six months or longer, 100% maintained mental stability, 74% maintained sobriety, 100% left with income and 53% obtained permanent housing.

St. Philip helps with the cost of recovery supplies for women participating in the Residential Treatment Program. In 2023, The Women's Home helped 104 women reclaim their lives who were homeless due to mental health and substance use disorders. The Residential Treatment Program offers two levels of treatment for women at different stages of recovery, an 89-day Intensive Program and longer-term Supportive Program (6-18 months). This year, the Women's Home provided residential behavioral health treatment and wrap-around services to 38 clients in the Intensive Treatment Phase and 80 clients in the Supportive Treatment Phase.

SEARCH SPEAKER SERIES

St. Philip's mission partner SEARCH is holding their next Speaker Series Webinar titled Housing and Homelessness on Thursday, March 21 at 12 PM CST. St. Philip members can register here at Meeting Registration - Zoom or email Hannah Mannion at hmannion@searchhomeless.org, or call 832-232-8715.

PLANT-IT-FORWARD

St. Philip members are invited to volunteer with mission partner Plant-It Forward's farmers on Saturday, April 13 at 10595 Fondren Rd., Houston, TX 77096 from 12:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. Volunteers will help farmers with weeding and mulching. Please bring water and wear hats, long sleeves and pants, sunscreen, and close-toed shoes. Sign up in the Gathering Area at the Mission table on Sundays through April 7 or email Angelina Fonseca-Grewal at mission@saintphilip.net if you can attend. Rides are available, please let Angelina know. More information about the event can be found at: Field Notes - Plant It Forward Farms

Plant It Forward empowers refugees to develop sustainable farming businesses and produce fresh, healthy food for our community. Plant It Forward also collaborates with the Houston Food Bank and in 2023, they provided 1,800 servings of fresh produce to more than 100 families. Plant It Forward was able to launch the Land Access Initiative in 2023, connecting new farmers with value-aligned landowners to increase the number of family-owned farms in the Houston region. St. Philip mission grants have supported three program areas of Enterprise/Food Hub, Urban Farming, and Farmer Education since 2018. Also, St. Philip grant funding helped farmers with their water bills during the 2023 summer drought, paid for infrastructure improvements on the farms by installing cold storage units which doubled farmers' weekly sales capacity, and the installation of four on-farm wash & pack structures that improved food safety and working conditions.

OPERATION IMPACT DELIVERY MISSION PARTNER CHURCH WIDE SERVICE DAY

SAVE THE DATE! Join the St. Philip mission partner Interfaith Ministries for their Operation IMpact event to deliver hurricane supply boxes and bottled water cases to the Meals on Wheels seniors at their homes. Save the dates of Saturday, June 1 and Saturday, June 8. St. Philip mission committee and church members will meet at the church to divide the hurricane supply boxes and water, then drive in teams of 2 or 3 in each car to the addresses Interfaith Ministries provides. If you are not traveling to Mo-Ranch for the retreat the weekend of June 1, this is a great service opportunity you can participate in benefiting the homebound seniors in our community. June 1 distribution will be in Harris County and June 8 distribution will be in Galveston County mainland, not on the island. Sign up will begin in April. Angelina Fonseca-Grewal can drive 4 volunteers, but other drivers will be needed.



PROJECT CURE—January's communion offering raised \$1,025 for Project CURE. Thank you, St. Philip congregation, for your generous support. Project Cure provides essential medical equipment and supplies to healthcare facilities in developing countries. This Mission Partner is in urgent need of funding to ship donated supplies for emergency surgeries and maternal care in Malawi, a country in economic crisis. You can find out more about Project C.U.R.E. at www.projectcure.org.

ST. PHILIPPIANS DISTRIBUTE FRESH PRODUCE AT CCSC FOOD FAIR—On Saturday, February 24, eleven St. Philip members met at the Gethsemane Campus of St. Luke's United Methodist Church at the CCSC Southwest Food Pantry to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to CCSC clients. The long line formed at before 9:00 a.m. but the Food Fair did not begin until 10:00 a.m. Volunteers set up the tables once the Houston Food Bank refrigerated food truck arrived. St. Philippians bagged cantaloupe, apples and pears, and passed out the bags as families walked through the line. Members also worked inside the food pantry directing clients that entered the building, and other members helped families carry the heavy produce to their cars. Some CCSC clients arrived by city bus and had to manage carrying their heavy shopping bags or

boxes back home on the bus, while other clients brought shopping carts or wagons to haul the fresh produce home. In total, 51 volunteers from other churches and schools assisted with the Food Fair and hundreds of CCSC clients were satisfied with fresh food which would have cost over \$30 or more in the grocery store. Thank you for the volunteers that devoted their time, muscle and positive energy toward serving the Houston community. The love of Jesus and assurance of the Lord was felt by all that attended, and St. Philip members out in the community demonstrates our love for our fellow neighbors and Jesus Christ. The February volunteer event was a great success and we hope the St. Philip congregation will make it out to the different volunteer opportunities offered each month in 2024.

LOVING HOUSTON LUNCH AND LEARN—On

February 22, St. Philip mission partner Loving Houston hosted a Lunch and Learn with keynote speaker, Pastor W. Reid Squares, sharing what his congregation at Sojourn Montrose is doing inside Lanier Middle School. Sojourn Montrose congregation members are partnered with a middle school student and mentor the student during the school year. Pastor Squires posed the question "Besides backpacks, school supplies and uniforms, how can a church develop deeper, long-term relationships with their schools? Pastor Squires challenged churches to be present, spend time in schools, be like Jesus so the staff and students encounter Jesus. Mentors from the church meet with students for one hour sessions, but don't talk about faith unless the students ask. Mentors listen to students, providing a safe space in the presense of God. Church members walk into places of need, show up, and keep being faithful as God's ambassadors.

Loving Houston advances community transformation in the Greater Houston area by helping churches serve local schools. Loving Houton utilizes a Community Transformation Model by providing Relief, Reconciliation and Development to schools. Angelina Fonseca-Grewal represented St. Philip at the Lunch and Learn and met with local community leaders, church leaders, Houston Independent School District Wrap-Around Services employees, and Loving Houston staff to brainstorm how churches can become more involved with their partner schools. Teachers are experiencing increased pressure and leaving the profession in record numbers. Teachers and students need support and encouragement from local churches more than ever before. St. Philip has been partnered with Liberty High School for many years. The St. Philip congregation has supported teachers and students in the past by providing a breakfast for teachers during in-service training before the school year begins, cooking at the St. Philip kitchen and serving a Thanksgiving meal to teachers, staff, students and their families, and purchased gifts cards for graduates. In 2024, St. Philip looks forward to showing the love of Jesus to the students, faculty and staff of Liberty High School with different outreach opportunities.

AUSTIN COLLEGE—February's communion offering raised \$1,290 which Austin College will use toward its Religious Life Program. Thank you, St. Philip congregation, for your generous support. Lee Ardell gave a joyful Minute For Mission about the vital religious life culture for Austin College students, faculty and staff that herself, Keatan and all our alumni of Austin College cherished during their time in college. Austin College cultivates a culture of service through their campus wide annual events including First We Serve, JanServe, GreenServe, and Great Day of Service, resulting in over 16,000 service hours to local and regional communities. The ACtivators work with the college chaplain to plan and lead the regional PC (USA) youth ministry events, and in 2023, they provided church school and worship leadership within local congregations of Grace Presbytery rather than the usual retreat setting. Austin College just announced the Westminster Scholarship program will provide full tuition scholarships to any and all admitted student members of the PC(USA) beginning in 2024-2025 academic year thanks to a recent \$20,000,000 gift to the College.



In order to continue our longstanding support of the Brookwood Community, we have kept in place our customary order for Easter lilies. They will be delivered to St. Philip to adorn our Sanctuary for our Easter service.

We invite you to contribute to our flower fund and dedicate a lily to someone this Easter. Donations may be made for any amount either through our website—saintphilip.net, choosing the Flowers/Holiday fund option from the menu; or by sending a check to the Church Office. If donating online where the memo line is limited in the number of characters, please e-mail Lorrie Castle (lorrie@saintphilip.net) with your name and the person(s) being honored and/or remembered. Similar information should be included with mailed checks. Mailed dedications should arrive by March 25. Thanks for your help in continuing this holiday tradition!

The list of donors and memorials/honors will appear in the bulletin and the Philip-Eye following Easter.





Are you interested in donating flowers to decorate the chancel on a Sunday morning? The 2024 flower calendar is available online at saintphilip.net, go to the calendar and look for the icon you

see here or click here. We have several open dates throughout the year.

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please welcome a few of our newest members to St. Philip.

Charles ("Charlie") Tolbert is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Baylor University. Upon retirement, he and his wife Tricia moved to Houston. Southern Baptist roots, but Charlie has been a Presbyterian for nearly 40 years in

three different states, First Presbyterian (Tallahassee), University Presbyterian (Baton Rouge), and Central Presbyterian (Waco). He has served in church as an ordained elder.

Tricia Tolbert is a retired educator, spending her career as a faculty member and administrator at FSU, LSU, and finally Baylor University. Originally



from Arkansas, she attended Baylor (where she met Charlie, her spouse of 51 years) and the University of Georgia. Together they have two children and four grandchildren. Rachel Kimbro, a St. Philip member, is their daughter. Tricia was ordained as an elder at First Presbyterian of Tallahassee and also served on the Session at University Presbyterian in Baton Rouge and Central Presbyterian in Waco. Tricia enjoys traveling, quilting, knitting, and reading.



Eric and Jennifer Brown—

The first thing to know about Jennifer and Eric is that they sit in front of Jane Larkin in the Sanctuary. Eric and Jennifer share two grown sons, who live in Dallas and Arkansas. Eric also has a daughter from a previous marriage who lives in New Orleans. They met at

Conoco. Eric is an engineer by education and Jennifer's career was in both medical and business records management. They raised their family in Katy, after which they moved to Fulshear. They transferred their faith and church membership to the Presbyterian Church, specifically St. Philip, after they began to seek a denomination that reflected their own values.

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Peg Palisin; Mary Herlitz; Helen Deleon; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Mark Takayama; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Alice Woodall-Chisholm – cousin of Mary McGuire; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians— Paul Feagan – friend of Jacqui Colton; 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; Magdalena Rustomji - friend of Mickey & Ken Meyers; Caitlan Prescott – friend of Mary McGuire; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Hazrum, Erin McDougal, and Eric Alberto Marquez – friends of Kate Burkart; 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 <u>deacons@saintphilip.net.</u>

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.

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!

Next edition: Tuesday, March 19; Deadline March 14—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.

























4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net