

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Randall SwansonDirector of Music

Dr. Matthew DirstOrganist

Cecy Duarte

Children's Music Associate

Micah Meyers

Art Director

Wilbert Parada

Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada

Custodian

Lorrie Castle

Office Manager Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill

Editor Emerita



Volume 66, Issue 8

PHILIP-EYE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Nancy and David Castro transferred their membership to St. Philip on Sunday, March 20 from The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church. Formerly living in The Woodlands, they moved to West University Place to be close to their grandchildren. Nancy taught second grade in the Woodlands for 20 years and her favorite hobbies are spending time with grandchildren, reading novels, traveling, and volunteering. She grew up in Houston, before venturing off to Minneapolis, MN, and

Ashland, KY. Nancy has been ordained as an Elder and as Deacon previously in the PC(USA). Nancy said she was looking forward to meeting and making new friends at St. Philips.

David Castro is the son of a Presbyterian minister and grew up in Colombia, South America, while his parents served as Presbyterian missionaries. While officially retired as an attorney, David is still active as a volunteer for the state law board. He graduated from Austin College and the University of Texas School of Law and worked for an oil and gas company. He enjoys reading historical literature. David noted that St. Philip's mission outreach, worship, music program, and ministry staff drew him to join at this time. Please extend a warm welcome to this wonderful couple.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—MARCH 2022

Stated Session Meeting via In-Person & Zoom Attendance - March 15, 2022

- *Session approved Guy Aldrich, John Hartman, William Howard, Fil Nenna, and Sharon Webb to serve as Confirmation Mentors for the Confirmation Class of 2022
- ♦ Session approved the Negro Spiritual Royalties Project for implementation at St. Philip.

Committee and Council Actions:

- *Worship and Music Committee sent to all committee members an email regarding the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee's Negro Spiritual Royalty Project revised proposal. The committee will support the project by approving any special collection dates that may be requested if the project is approved.
- † Property Committee reviewed and approved the annual Presbytery lease renewal.
- † Property Committee approved a new HVAC Maintenance Contract.

Called Session Meeting – March 20, 2022

*Session received into membership David and Nancy Castro by letters of transfer from The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church.



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Please join St. Philip's Earth Care Team in observing Earth Day on Sunday, April 24, as we enjoy our annual picnic on the grounds. What better way to celebrate than to share fellowship together outside in God's creation! To add to the festivities, we will be hosting a table with native plant seedlings for the taking, and a car display in the parking lot showcasing sustainable vehicles driven by St. Philippians and friends!

You can contribute to the day by:

- Bringing extra seedlings, veggies, or plants to share with others
- Triving your hybrid or electric vehicle to church and taking part in our car show
- Traveling to church that day in another sustainable way:
 carpooling taking public transportation
 walking bicycling

And yes, if you are part of a couple and you each have your own vehicle and you ride together in one vehicle, guess what? That counts as carpooling!

Finally, remember to place your used picnic-ware in the proper recycle/wash bin at the recycle station after you've eaten your fill.

We can all care for God's earth in these and a multitude of other ways!

SPACE COWBOYS— THE BRAND

The Mission Patch logo intertwines the essence of the regal Texas flag with a rocket, ready to launch. The Sugar Land starburst is once again carried



into the logo in place of the traditional Lone Star and the rocket's central and upward-facing position signifies the desire to reach new heights and take on challenges many would say are not achievable.

St. Philippians can be a part of that new era on **June 12.** Fellowship Committee will have more information soon.



SUGAR LAND SPACE+COWBOYS



Space Cowboys VS. Las Vegas Aviators

June 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Constellation Field (Sugar Land)

Tickets \$15— seats are behind home team dugout)

Parking \$3 if paid in advance.

Fellowship Committee members will be at the picnic and in the Gathering Area on May 1, 8, 15, and 22 selling tickets.

Last day to purchase tickets online is May 23.

Pay for tickets on MyStPhilip
or saintphilip.net choose **Fellowship.**If paying by check please put Fellowship on memo line.
Checks must be in the Church Office by May 23.

HELP FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN IN HOUSTON

Saturday, April 30, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Join the fun volunteering at Kids Meals, an SPPC mission partner that delivers meals year-round to homes of preschoolers. Harris County has the second highest rate of child food-insecurity in the nation. Every day one out of four preschool-aged children (88,740 children) may not know where their next meal is coming from. YOU can make a difference.

SPPC members, friends, and children eight years and older are invited to come with an adult. We will be assigned to make sandwiches and prepare snacks, or pack meal items into bags to be delivered.

Meet at Kids Meals in Garden Oaks (330 Garden Oaks, Houston, TX 77018) at 9:00 a.m. on **April 30**, or carpool from SPPC. Closed-toe shoes and baseball cap or hair wrap required. Masks optional. Pre-Registration is required; contact Jacquie Colton at jacquiec1@yahoo.com or 713-816-5354. Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee.

Drive-Through Benefitting The House of Tiny Treasures

Saturday, May 21, 10-11:30 a.m.

Items needed for outside summer fun:
Sand buckets and shovels
Beach balls, water balls and any other sports balls
Jump ropes
Bubbles
Sidewalk chalk
Shaving cream
Window markers
Small pots for planting seeds
Colored painters tape/washi tape for art

Items may also be brought to the Gathering Area on Sunday or the Church Office during the week May 22 before and after church

MAY COMMUNION OFFERING

Our communion offering in **May** is the PC(USA) Pentecost Offering, 40% of which will benefit SEARCH's House of Tiny Treasures.



Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith

established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The May Pentecost Communion Offering reminds us to support children, youth and young adults as they share their faith and ideas with the church community and the world.

SEARCH's House of Tiny Treasures is a pre-school program in Houston that provides early education to children ages 2-5 who have experienced homelessness. Long a mission partner of the church, the St. Philip Stitchers have been delivering beautiful hand-made quilts to the "tiny treasures" for the past seven years.

Find out about ways to give to and get involved with this award-winning children's organization at:

Searchhomeless.org/house-of-tiny-treasures.

Beginning in **MAY** Pentecost Offerings may be made online at <u>www.saintphilip.net</u> or by mailing a check to the church office. Thank you for your generosity! As we always say ... when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

We are called to do Christ's work in the world, helping neighbor and stranger.

FREEMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Mark and Velma Freeman Scholarship Fund provides college scholarship assistance for child members of St. Philip. Application materials for 2022 scholarship are now available on the church website (saintphilip.net). The deadline for submission is **May 15**.





1	Lisa Lomax
1	Brad Exnicious
2	Jan Meyer
2	Trisha Young
3	John Hartman
4	Paul Jackson, Jr.
4	Rachel Biar
7	Marion Takehara
7	Peg Palisin
7	Sam Al-Sammarr
8	Allison Newport
8	Phoebe Murphy

12	Carolyn Barrios
12	Eleanor Kimbro
13	John Webster
14	Deb Burks
16	Jody Tomforde
16	Dorothy Blackwell
16	Nancy Cook
17	Henry Owen
18	Sarah Cherrillo
21	Olga Lewis
21	Kathryn Harwood

22	Skip Britton
22	Nancy Waldrop
23	Hope Wilmarth
23	Michelle Vasquez
25	Betsy DuBose
25	Beth Flowers
26	Cathy Herrera
27	Nathan Carlin
29	Bill Miller
30	Susan Estill
31	Denis Martin

INTRODUCTION OF MATTHEW DIRST CHURCH & SOCIETY, APRIL 10, 2022

The Church & Society class asked Jo Helland to introduce Matthew Dirst when he led his presentation "The Music for Holy Week" on Palm Sunday. Matthew needs no introduction, of course, since he has been a beloved part of the St. Philip music staff for 25 years. But we convinced Jo to go ahead and write an introduction for the sake of new members of the church, as well as the long-time members who never tire of hearing about Matthew's many accomplishments and his excellent work at St. Philip. Jo's introduction was so informative and such a tribute to Matthew that we want to share her introduction with everybody. Thanks to the diligent work of Randall Swanson, St. Philip director of music, the Church & Society class received the complete choral music texts & translations for Holy Week 2022 and Easter Sunday worship, which Matthew discussed with us in detail. We are so very grateful to both Matthew and Randall for their unwavering commitment to the music program at St. Philip, a shining star in the life of our congregation.

—Mickey Meyers

13——80



It is my huge pleasure and honor to "introduce" Matthew Dirst, even after the fact! Matthew has been our organist and friend since coming to St. Philip in February, 1997, when Charles Hausmann was our choir director. I still remember the night

Matthew walked into the choir rehearsal room, hair down to his shoulders, to accompany the choir for the first time. We loved him right away! Twenty-five years later we feel the same way, but with even greater appreciation for his talent, his intellect, his vision, his good humor, and his allround genial nature.

A native of Illinois, Matthew received his undergraduate degree in music at the University of Illinois. That's just the beginning! He went on to earn two degrees from Southern Methodist University—Master of Music in organ and a Master of Sacred Music---and a PhD in musicology from Stanford University. Mixed in with all of these academic achievements, Matthew spent two years in France as a Fulbright Scholar at the French National Conservatory where he received the coveted Prix de Virtuosité in both organ and harpsichord, and then did further harpsichord study at UC Berkeley.

He is the first American musician to win major international prizes in both organ and harpsichord, including first prize at the American Guild of Organists National Young Artist Competition in 1990 and second prize at the inaugural Warsaw International Harpsichord Competition in 1993.

Matthew is equally active as a performer and scholar and has written two books on Bach—Engaging Bach: The Keyboard Legacy from Marpurg to Mendelssohn from Cambridge University Press, and Bach and the Organ from the University of Illinois Press, as well as numerous articles and reviews.

Widely admired for his stylish playing and conducting of Baroque music especially, Matthew's early music ensemble Ars Lyrica, of which he is the Founder and Artistic Director, specializes in Baroque chamber and dramatic works and was nominated for a Grammy for Best Opera Recording, "Marc Antonio e Cleopatra" in 2011. In 2010 he was hailed by the Dallas Morning News for his "crisp but expressive direction" of the Monteverdi 1610 Vespers, which it named "Best Classical Performance of 2010". Early Music America described his recent solo harpsichord recording as "a stylish, tasteful, and technically commanding performance...expressive and brilliant playing."

As far as St. Philip is concerned, no mention of Matthew would be complete without including our magnificent organ that was dedicated almost exactly twelve years ago on April 18, 2010. The night before, Matthew had "christened" the organ with the inaugural recital, which was a grand occasion. Yesterday I actually found the program from that very special weekend in which he expressed these thoughts: "When I came to St. Philip more than a dozen years ago, the idea of a major renovation of the sanctuary was already under discussion. Naturally, I began daydreaming about a new organ as part of this project, though I had no idea whether that would ever come to pass. The dedication of this instrument is the culmination of a dream, which I am happy to say, was shared by many others." Bill Poe, our pastor throughout the renovation, stated that "the inauguration of the Fritts organ marks the opening of an important new chapter in St. Philip's worship life, and in the life we share with the community around us." And indeed it has, more than we even dreamed it would.

If you are wondering how one person can possibly accomplish everything that Matthew does, there's still one more hat he wears---that of Professor and Coordinator of Musicology at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston--his day job, so to speak--teaching courses in music history and performance practice. To say that we at St. Philip are blessed to claim Professor Dirst as one of our own is truly an understatement. He told me that this is the longest tenure he has had at any church, and that he is delighted to be still at it! Well, Matthew, we are delighted too. Here's to the next twenty-five years!

—Jo Helland, April 10, 2022

(A note from Jo: The introduction came *after* Matthew had left the class to go to choir rehearsal---thus my comment "even after the fact." Much of my material for the introduction came from Matthew's own on-line biography, which I used with his permission.)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Watch your email for details of our next gathering. 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 FELLOW-SHIP—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 meet tonight, Tuesday, **May 3**, 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 melcome@saintphilip.net and type PSJ Study Group in the subject line.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS—Room 204—9:30 a.m. We have completed the "David Story" in 1 Kings 1-2 and have begun our study of Solomon and the subsequent Kingdoms of Israel and Judah in 1-2 Kings, with Dr. Robert *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.

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.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES All classes begin at 9:45.

Godly Play (Age 3 to K)—Room 104 Grades 1—2 - Room 105 Grades 3—5 - Room 103

CHURCH & SOCIETY— 9:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. time for visiting and 9:40 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. for the presentation by Zoom and in room 201-April 24 - "The Climate Emergency; Faith into Action." There are so many ways of loving the earth and moving from faith into action. Come on a tour of the many ways that Quakers across the country have found to make that love and faith visible as they respond to the climate emergency. Presented by Pamela Haines - Quaker Earthcare Witness, author of Money and Soul, and That Clear and Certain Sound; Finding Solid Ground in Perilous Times. May 1 - "How are we doing? - St. Philipians share how they are lowering their carbon footprint. Members of St. Philip gather to share the ways they have learned to incorporate environmentally healthy practices into their daily lives, to be responsible stewards of God's good earth. Presented by Judith Hiott and the St. Philip Peace and Social Justice Committee. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety stphilip@comcast.net.









Thank you!

Tina Bryan (photographer/not shown), Judith Hiott, Beth Atkinson, Kelley Fair (not shown), Omar Rouchon, Wilbert Parada, Remberto Quintanilla, and Dimas Parada for moving all of your donations to the new home of the Afghan refugee family St. Philip has adopted.





Happy Easter!

Thank you to those who have contributed lilies to adorn our chancel.

Bob & Lee Ardell Kussell & Caryn Bahruth Mrs. C.J. Miller Landa Bevill St. Philip Startf Kussell & Caryn Bahruth Mrs. C.J. Miller Landa Bevill St. Philip Nursery Staff Bob & Bebe Bums Ine glory of God & our St. Philip Family Lorrie Castle John Wurster, Ada Fuller & Denise Ferrell Janet & Carl Eskridge St. Philip Clergy & Friends John Wurster, Ada Fuller & Denise Ferrell Janet & Carl Eskridge St. Philip Choir Dick & Sue Howard Our St. Philip Family Individual St. Philip Family St. Philip Family St. Philip Family Individual St. Philip Family Individual St. Philip Family St. Philip Family Individual St. Philip Family Individual St. Philip Family St. Philip Thilip Family Individual St. Philip Family Individual St. Philip Family St. Philip Thilip Family Individual St. Philip F		ho have contributed lilies to adorn our chancel.
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Hope Wilmarth Lance Wilmarth	Al & Ruthie Waldrop	
	Hope Wilmarth	
	John Wurster & Deb Burks	Darnall Burks

BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFT OF CLEAN DRINKING WATER

Last month, many of you read John's Wurster's Lenten message quoting John 4:13-14, and there are over 100 references to living water in the Bible. This is surely evidence that water is essential to God's vision of life for all.

Over 2 billion people live in year-round, high water stress areas across 32 countries, of which 22 countries (very serious stress) are above 70%. This means, that in 22 countries, the deficit exists between the demand for water, falling short by 70% of the available renewable fresh water sources. Nearby, Mexico and the Caribbean fall into this category, and are joined by half of Europe, Asia, India, and several countries in Africa. Twice this population, worldwide, experiences severe seasonal drought. World population is growing at 1% per year and water demand is growing at over 1% per year, driven strongly by Asia growth. (3)

"Globally, agriculture (including irrigation, livestock, and aquafarming) account for 69% of annual ground water withdrawals. The rest is utilized by households (12%) and industry (19%)." It is estimated that 20% of global crop land utilizes surface or well water and fortunately, produces 40% of the world's food (when compared to rainfed land) Sadly, much of the accessible water is still regulated under historic legacy hereditary land rights, or old water treaties, which make their management difficult and inflexible. Without proper management, this competition, will continue it difficult to source clean drinking water.

"World Water Day 2022 theme of 'Groundwater – Making the invisible visible', carries the overarching message that exploring, protecting, and sustainably using groundwater will be central to surviving and adapting to climate change and meeting the needs of a growing population⁽²⁾." "Without exception, and especially in this United States, the current status of water development has fallen deadly behind the growing resourcing problems and much of the messages lately only highlights that improved water management is needed⁽²⁾." I encourage you to read the 2021 UN Water Development Report footnoted below. ⁽¹⁾.

One way St. Philippian's are making a difference is through their support for the Living Waters for the World, Houston Group of Churches Easter trip to install a beautiful new clean water system in the small village of Rubén Jaramillo, Tabasco. Planning is also underway for our next large mission Team to travel in 2023 and now is the time to contact us if you are interested in being a part of this Team.

Both these Tabasco projects can potentially reach upward of **4000 persons** in their rural areas. Both Operating Partners have strong community outreach missions established, are strong and growing Presbyterian Churches and can draw on their own Church community for operators and delivery vehicles.

You will hear more about this great Clean Water Plant Installation Adventure in May! Thank you again for your continued prayers and support.

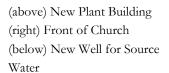
—Ed and Janet Hess, Kip Frautschi, David, and Joyce Fox

UN World Water Report - <u>www.unwater.org/</u> <u>publications/un-world-water-development-report-</u> 2021

World Water Day - https://www.unwater.org/world-water-day-2022-groundwater/#:~:text=World%20Water%20Day%2C%20on%2022,recognized%20in%20sustainable%20development%20policymaking.

The UN World Water Development Report 2019: https://www.unwater.org/publications/world-water-development-report-2019/









IN OUR PRAYERS

Family of Dorothy Murphey upon her death on April 2. Memorial service will April 23 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Linda Weinman and family upon the death of her husband Don on April 8. Memorial service to be determined.

St. Philippians and their families—Tom Sands; Mary Sinderson; Susan Huffman; Jan Ostendorf; Pat Lindsay; Roderick James; Lee Larkin; Bill Slick; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Napoleon Parada—father of Wilbert & Dimas Parada; Alma Fonseca- mother of Angelina Fonseca; Hunter—grandson of Michael Alexander; Trip Merklein—nephew of Elizabeth Duerr; Darryl Cazes—brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; 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; Sarah—cousin of Sam Fisher; Shirley Boggus—grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona & Alan Rowe—mother and his father - William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound—John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians—Bill Dixon – friend of Tina Bryan; Matt Scalapino and Laura Chilton—friends of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Faye Miller—friend of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker—friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner.

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

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

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.

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.

The Session has decided to ease our masking requirements. It is possible that conditions could change, and at some point we may be advised to return to asking everyone to mask; but for now we can be "mask-optional" for our gatherings at St. Philip. We expect that some of us will opt to continue masking for any number of reasons, including our own health status or our proximity to vulnerable people. While we are no longer requiring masks, we support those who choose to wear them.

Next edition: May 3; Deadline <u>April 28—3:00 p.m.</u> 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.



















PRESBYTERIANS



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net