

PHILIP-EYE

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THE ABCS OF LGBTQIA+

by Lorrie Castle

St. Philip's Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee is pleased to sponsor this series of articles on matters of gender and sexual identity. St. Philip is a member of both the [Covenant Network of Presbyterians](#) and [More Light Presbyterians](#), organizations that work for the full inclusion of persons of all gender and sexual identities in the church and in society.

Continuing with our LGBTQ series, in this article we will guide you through **gender identity**. Once again, we are grateful to the Rev. Brian Ellison, executive director of Covenant Network of Presbyterians, for this information.

Gender identity is a set of social, psychological, and emotional traits, often influenced by societal expectations that classify an individual as “masculine” or “feminine.”

Sex is a description of our biological anatomy.

Gender is a matter of self-understanding—how we identify.

Gender identity describes what set of physical, emotional, or cultural traits we most identify with. Gender identity is:

- 🌈 Understood to be the result of a variety of factors, rather than a conscious choice by an individual;
- 🌈 On a spectrum (vs. binary, i.e., purely one thing or another); it can evolve and be fluid;
- 🌈 Not necessarily visible to others; and
- 🌈 Not necessarily related to sexual orientation (who a person is attracted to emotionally or physically).

These are self-identifying terms that describe feelings and emotions, not behavior.

Cisgender – When a person's gender identity matches their biological sex.

Transgender – When a person's gender identity differs from their biological sex (also, “transgender,” or “trans,” not “transgendered”). A person does not need to use hormones or have surgery to identify as transgender, and it is **never** appropriate to ask someone whether they have had surgical interventions. While some trans-identified people choose to have medical or surgical interventions, these interventions in no way “legitimize” someone's trans identity.

Gender non-binary – When a person's gender identity does not necessarily align completely with male or female. [Also “genderqueer” or “N.B. (enby)”] Gender non-binary persons usually use “they/their” pronouns to refer to themselves.

Other Words to Know

Queer - A catch-all term that many persons in the LGBTQ community of diverse sexual orientations and gender identity prefer, which intentionally does not specify an orientation. “Queer” can embrace non-binary persons, those with an evolving self-understanding, and inclusive community in general.

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Intersex - People whose biological anatomy is not entirely male or female (previously understood as “hermaphrodite”). These individuals are born with, or develop naturally in puberty, biological sex characteristics that are not typically male or female.

Questioning – Persons who are in a process of exploration and who might be unsure, still exploring, or concerned about applying a social label to themselves for various reasons.

Allies – **Anyone** can be an ally to the LGBTQ community by attempting to educate themselves about gender and sexuality issues; working to reduce homophobia and transphobia in themselves, their families, and their communities; and doing their best to support LGBTQ persons in politics, society, and culture.

In our next article we will guide you through a brief history of how Presbyterians have addressed the ordination of LGBTQ persons, and the definition of marriage to include LGBTQ persons, through the General Assembly [the churchwide council of the PC(USA)] and *The Book of Order* (the denomination’s constitution).

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

St. Philip has been active in doing our part to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide. Over 100 solar panels were installed on the roof of the Education Building almost one year ago. They supply 25% of the electricity needs of both the Education Building and Sanctuary. If you missed the Earth Care walk-around on April 17, you missed seeing other ways the church is striving to follow God’s charge to care for the planet. However, there is more that needs to be done but we need your input to know the direction you would have us go. If you have NOT already completed the Earth Care survey, please do so now by clicking the link below and completing the short survey. Your answers are important for they will help guide the church forward. Thank you for your responses.

[St. Philip Earth Care Survey April 2021 \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/st-philip-earth-care-survey-april-2021)



Earth
Day

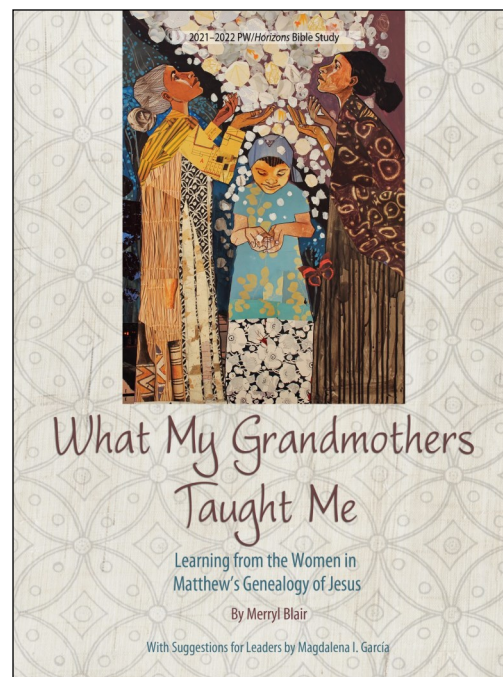
HORIZON BOOKS

The order for Horizon Study Books for next year’s Presbyterian Women’s Circles will be sent in soon. If you want a book and haven’t requested one yet, please let Lorrie Castle (lorrie@saintphilip.net) or Jan Meyer (jsmeyer9990@gmail.com) know. Also please indicate if you want a regular (\$10) or large (\$15) print copy.

Welcome to the 2021–2022 Presbyterian Women/*Horizons* Bible study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus*.

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?

Have you thought about Jesus’ grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.



WHO'S ZOOMING WHOM?

A few of the groups at St. Philip continue to meet during this time via Zoom and other video conference services—the session has had meetings, book club, church committees and Church and Society. We even have Sunday Coffee Hour. If you would like to participate in future meetings, please contact the appropriate group's leader.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR—Gather with fellow St. Philippians to talk about the sermons, hear about their week and what helped them get through the week. The Coffee Hour begins after the closing voluntary. Email Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net to be added to the list.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Our next meeting is **May 13** at 7 p.m. when we will be discussing *The Night Watchman* by Louise Eldrich led by Kate Cray. Contact Sarah O'Dell for Zoom link – sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER—A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday meets on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. or 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 each Friday via Zoom at noon. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to join or know the current material they are discussing.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—9:30 a.m. via Zoom—
April 25 - *Air Quality Issues* - How energy use impacts the atmosphere, and how air pollution, in turn, impacts human health. Presented by Dr. Daniel Cohan, Associate Professor of Civil Environmental Engineering at Rice University
May 2 - *Hurricane Resilience Research Institute* - Learn how HuRRI focuses on helping the Gulf Coast to do better at preparing for and mitigating the damage and loss of lives from hurricanes and other severe storms. Presented by Dr. Hanadi S. Rifai, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Cullen College of Engineering, University of Houston - Director of the Hurricane Resilience Institute.

Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE

We are optimistic that Presbyterian Women will be able to meet in person in the fall. We are also aware that once things open up, everyone is going to be traveling. We have scheduled the PW Retreat for **January 21 – 23, 2022** so you can put it on your calendar and save the date. Details to follow later. All women are invited!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CIRCLE MEETINGS

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. The meetings are virtual, and a Zoom link is sent to all P.W. members of each circle. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate, so please email Lorrie to request the link: welcome@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.

WORSHIP IN PERSON

For at least a few more weeks, we will continue to conduct a Sunday service on the lawn at 9 a.m. This service can accommodate all who wish to attend, as we seek to utilize this season of relatively pleasant weather and provide time for more people across our congregation to be vaccinated. We expect to begin conducting in-person worship services in the Sanctuary, with limited capacity, the second half of May. The Session's Going Forward task force continues to monitor conditions and to seek safe a course for our life together at St. Philp.

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesdays at 11 a.m. This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website. If you'd like to attend the midweek service in-person, contact Lorrie Castle in the church office.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

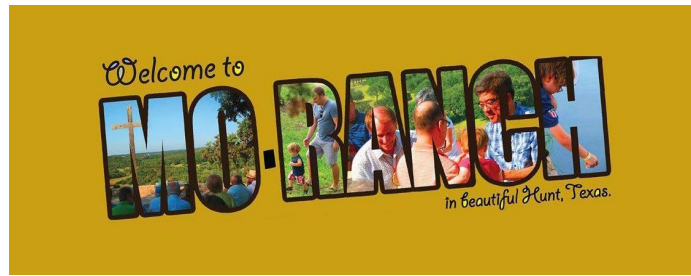
We will offer outdoor worship opportunities on the church campus on a week-to-week basis. Worship services will begin at 9:00 a.m. Worshipers are asked to bring their own chairs or blankets. We will also have chairs available at the church for those who need them. Worshipers will be spaced on the lawn at appropriate distances. The lawn service will last about thirty minutes. Registration is required and will open the Monday before the service; link can be found in pastoral email updates or through MyStPhilip or the ChurchLife app. If the event has reached capacity, the event sign-up closes.

Link for **April 25**—[click here](#).

If you have trouble with the registration or are not online, please call/text Lorrie Castle (832-262-1244). We will also have the usual 11:00 service that day, which will continue to be on-line only.

May Birthdays

Date	Name
1	Mary Lomax
2	John Fox
2	Trisha Young
3	John Hartman
3	Joseph Munson
4	Paul Jackson
4	Rachel Biar
5	Janice Meyer
7	Marion Takehara
7	Peg Palisin
7	Sam Al-Sammarr
8	Allison Newport
8	Phoebe Murphy
12	Carolyn Barrios
12	Alex Geis
12	Eleanor Kimbro
13	Christine Gensch
13	John Webster
14	Deb Burks
16	Jo Alice Tomforde
16	Dorothy Blackwell
16	Nancy Cook
18	Sarah Cherrillo
19	Candace Demary
19	Everett Geis
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	Catherine Herrera
27	Nathan Carlin
30	Susan Estill
31	Denis Martin




SAVE THE DATE: ST PHILIP AT MO-RANCH 2022

Though the pandemic continues to constrain our activities in 2021, St Philip is looking forward to a special event for 2022! Mark your calendars and join us as we begin to make plans for a St Philip retreat at Mo-Ranch from 2-5 June 2022. For more than 40 years, this congregation has enjoyed a long weekend in early June, relaxing, playing and worshipping in the Texas Hill Country. If you've never come with us before, please consider joining us in June 2022—and if you are a retreat regular, make plans now to resume this happy habit!

Mo-Ranch is a Presbyterian institution and a treasured mission partner of this congregation, providing camps and conferences for all ages and hotel-style accommodations for families and individuals in a place of outstanding beauty.

While we cannot go there together in 2021, Mo-Ranch is receiving guests this summer. If your travels might take you that way, you can inquire about room reservations at the Ranch by contacting Blanca Barrera at blancab@moranch.com.

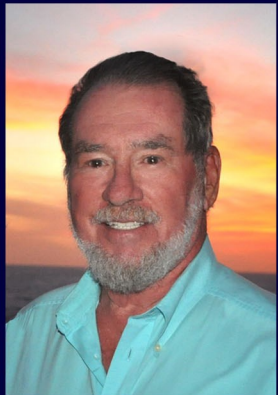


THE RATHGEBER FAMILY
INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE
THE LIFE AND PASSING OF

**VAN DOREN
RATHGEBER, JR**

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021
THE BRAZOS ROOM
GOODE COMPANY SEAFOOD - MEMORIAL
HOUSTON, TEXAS
6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

VDR



6:00 BUFFET DINNER AND RECEPTION
MEMORIAL SERVICE
TO BEGIN AT 7:30.
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO
BRING YOUR BEST STORIES TO SHARE.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A GIFT
IN VAN'S HONOR,
GIFTS MAY BE MADE TO THE
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OR
SUNDARA SENIOR LIVING, ROUND ROCK, TX.

If you wish to attend the celebration of life for Van Rathgeber, the family ask that you RSVP to karenRHale@me.com since there will be food served.

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Travis Calhoun; Kay Cash; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Mezgebe Gebrey; Erin Thackston—niece of Jacquie Colton; Warren & Gretchen Cash—brother and sister-in-law of Kay Cash; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; Dixie Hahn—sister of Mary Sinderson; Brad Davis—nephew of Sam Fisher; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; Betty Grant—sister-in-law of Eleanor Grant; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher—sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Bessie Johnson—mother of Pat Lindsay; Mac & Beverly Wilson—parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore—mother of Chuck Johnson; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family—daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family—cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Shirley Boggus—grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound—Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; Mary Sinderson; George and Lorraine Scott; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians—Karen Stewart—friend of Roderick James; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Judith Tomaino, Bill McDonald and Jackson Tavel—friends 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.

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.

Next edition: May 4; Deadline April 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.



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