

June 4, 2024

Volume 68, Issue 11

PHILIP-EYE

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Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Dr. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

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Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Diana Weiss
Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

Bookworms Wanted

Second Sunday Intergenerational event hosted by the Education Committee - Grab your favorite book to share for the SPPC book swap and library bash on **June 9**, at 9:45 a.m., before worship. You can attach a note with a synopsis/tiny review to your book, and you can bring as many books as you like. All genres are welcome, including children's, young adult, fiction, or nonfiction. Tables outside the library will be ready for swapping books, and we will have elevator pitch opportunities, snacks (eating improves vision acuity), as well as a very special children's book reading. We invite you to dress as your favorite book character. Please join us as we celebrate our library and kick off summer reading!

Learn about the St. Philip Day School

The St. Philip Day School is a new mission initiative on our campus benefitting families lacking access to quality early childhood education. The school will operate on the first floor of our Education Building. The Session approved the plan in May and also authorized start-up funding for the project from our Central Mission Endowment Fund. To meet licensing requirements, some structural modifications of the Education Building will be necessary. If the way be clear, we hope the school will be up and running next spring. We are excited about this transformational mission endeavor and the opportunity to expand our ministry to children and families! **Keatan King, Omar Rouchon, and John Wurster will lead an informational session about the school on June 30 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 201** (the Church and Society classroom)



MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

2024
SUMMER ORGAN SERIES

Sunday June 9 | 3:00 pm

Grant Smith, organist

Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church
4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | saintphilip.net

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip    

MISSION COMMITTEE

CCSC NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE—

During the month of June, the Mission Committee will be collecting non-perishable food donations for drop off at the Gathering Area mission table or at the Church Office. Examples of the different kinds of foods you can drop off include dry beans (1 or 2 pound bags), hearty soups, dry rice (1 or 2 pound bags), canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter, boxed dry cereal, pasta sauce, baby food or formula, toilet paper, canned fruit (all types), canned vegetables (all types), dry pasta and mac and cheese. Food donations continue through June 30. The food is especially needed in the summer months because children are out of school and their families must provide their breakfast and lunch, which are usually provided by the school.

REGISTER NOW! KIDS MEALS' ST. PHILIP VOLUNTEER DAY MONDAY, JULY 8—

St. Philip mission partner Kids' Meals will host a group from St. Philip on Monday, **July 8**, from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., to help prepare sack lunches for children at home during summer vacation. The mission of Kids' Meals is to end childhood hunger by delivering free, healthy meals, year-round to the doorsteps of the greater Houston area's hungriest preschool-aged children and through collaboration provide their families with resources to help end the cycle of poverty. Over the past 17 years, Kids' Meals has provided more than 14 million free, healthy meals to Houston's hungriest children. In 2024, Kids' Meals will make and deliver at least 2.77 million healthy meals, provide healthy produce and groceries at least three times per week, and leverage their daily access to connect children and families with wrap-around services from more than 70 partner service organizations. Kids' Meals cannot reach these goals without volunteers. St. Philip grants support the Healthy Meal Delivery Program. Please save the date to volunteer at Kids' Meals on **July 8**. Sign up continues through **July 7**. Every individual, including children, attending must register: <http://stpphilip.kidsmealsinc.volunteerhub.com/>

Kids Meals' goal is to make things as smooth as possible for you. They recommend volunteers wear comfortable clothing, closed toed-shoes, and a hat. In case someone prefers not to wear a hat, hair nets are distributed as an option. Limited parking, carpool if possible. Please arrive at our offices by 12:30 p.m. Upon arrival, you will enter the Welcome Center, sign-in on the computers, and have a brief orientation. Come ready to have a good time!

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER PLANNING COMMITTEE—

This year, many St. Philip members have asked if the Kids Against Hunger meal packing activity will resume. Our church can be a host again for the Kids Against Hunger packing program. There are 5 categories of tasks for a successful Kids Against Hunger program to resume in our church:

1. A good accounting/bookkeeping system for orders.
2. A good transportation & delivery system of the packing

supplies to St. Philip.

3. Marketing of the packing program at our church & scheduling volunteer groups.
4. Event teams & hosts. A successful church needs 6-8 teams of 4 to 5 people. One team would host about once every six weeks.

Meal deliveries. A delivery team loads up the packed meals on Sunday and delivers Monday mornings to Kids' Meals or another mission partner.

St. Philip needs to form a Kids Against Hunger committee to start this mission program again. The committee members can be any church member; you do not have to already be on the Mission Committee. If you are interested in volunteering or want to be part of that leadership team, please contact Angelina Fonseca-Grewal at:

mission@saintphilip.net or contact Keatan King at keatan@saintphilip.net. Also, if you know a farmer or rancher that will take the expired rice, soy, grain, and lentils to feed pigs or goats, please contact Keatan King. These old supplies must be removed first from the church dining room kitchen before the program can commence again.

CLOTHING FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS—

Lord of the Streets (LOTS) is an Episcopal Church in Midtown Houston, and whose primary congregation is people who are experiencing homelessness. You can help serve their congregation by bringing clothes and shoes to 3401 Fannin St., 77004, during the week (Mon-Fri, 8:00-Noon); clothes are distributed on Wednesdays and Thursdays. They have an immediate need for men's shoes. Contact Thania Hernandez (info@lotshouston.org) for more information. lotshouston.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH LOTS—

Lord of the Streets Episcopal Church needs your help. Because they serve people who are experiencing homelessness, LOTS needs many volunteers. Office tasks, mail distribution, serving food, helping in the clothing room, leading Bible studies and prayers, are some of the ways you can serve. Contact Thania Hernandez info@lotshouston.org for more information.

MISSION OF YAHWEH—

On May 22, Angelina Fonseca-Grewal attended the Mission of Yahweh spring fundraising luncheon at the Junior League. Former residents that received mental health counseling and job training spoke during the lunch, and it was announced that this summer, Executive Director Richard Hill is retiring. Development Director Tammie Jeffers will be Interim Executive Director until the board hires a new executive director. Mission of Yahweh is a faith-based shelter that empowers, enriches and restores the lives of homeless women and

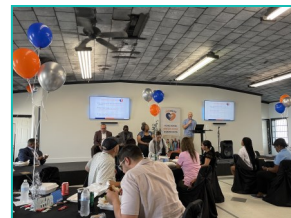


Executive Director Richard Hill is retiring. Development Director Tammie Jeffers will be Interim Executive Director until the board hires a new executive director. Mission of Yahweh is a faith-based shelter that empowers, enriches and restores the lives of homeless women and

children and provides outreach services to low-income communities. Mission of Yahweh (MOY) serves the Houston area as the only emergency /transitional shelter for homeless women/children offering a unique continuum of services for up to two years. The Emergency/Crisis Program typically houses 75% of residents for 30-90 days while the Transitional Living Program houses approximately 25% for up to two years. In 2023, MOY's goal was to serve 400 homeless women/children (an increase of 118 over 2022) with a minimum of 50% of exiting residents achieving independence in permanent housing. St. Philip provides grants to fund Mission of Yahweh's Senior Plus Program.

LOVING HOUSTON—On May 30, Angelina Fonseca-Grewal attended the Loving Houston end of school year celebration, honoring church leaders and wraparound specialists with Houston Independent School District (HISD). Pastor Ryan Cantu of Pneuma Church in Southeast Houston led a panel discussion on how to get church school

partnership relationships off the ground and what successes have been achieved by churches and schools across Houston. Pastor Cantu informed the group that HISD is laying off the majority of the wraparound specialist positions in the schools effective at the end of this school year in June. The wraparound specialists are always busy helping students and their families find the resources they need to survive and thrive in their homes and communities. Angelina will work with the graduation coordinator at Liberty High School moving forward to make sure students graduating receive the school supplies to help them start college this summer and fall. As well, St. Philip is invited to follow the Loving Houston Facebook page where you can stay informed about all the ways churches are providing ministry and resources to partner



PRIMETIMERS HISTORICALLY BLACK HOUSES OF WORSHIP TOUR

On Tuesday, **June 25**, the Primetimers will be led on another Houses of Worship tour by our friends at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston. Days following Juneteenth, hear the stories of Houston's oldest historically Black churches founded more than 150 years ago and how they influenced the culture of Houston. Our group will visit the historic Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in downtown Houston followed by Trinity United Methodist Church, with a brief stop at The Gregory School, Houston's oldest school for Black children. We will depart from St. Philip promptly at **9:30 a.m.** and will have lunch in between our stops. Lunch will be on your own and a freewill offering will be collected for a contribution to IM and the host faith communities.

Please **RSVP by Tuesday, June 18**. Contact omar@saintphilip.net with any questions.

EXPLORE GREATER HOUSTON

THROUGH THE LENS OF FAITH

Explore our community's cultural and religious diversity on an Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston specially designed house of worship visit for student, college, corporate, faith, and community groups.

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (IM) brings people together for dialogue, collaboration, and service, as a demonstration of our shared beliefs. We feed 5000+ homebound seniors and their pets daily, resettle refugees fleeing persecution in their homelands, foster interfaith understanding and respect, and promote volunteerism.

"AMERICA IS NOW INCREASINGLY MADE UP OF ALL THE WORLD'S ETHNICITIES AND ALL THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS. NOWHERE IS THAT CLEARER THAN IN HOUSTON."
STEPHEN L. KLINBERG, FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE KINDER INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH, RICE UNIVERSITY

EQUAL EXCHANGE UPDATE ON CHOCOLATE & COCOA PRICES



The cost of cacao has skyrocketed! Due to the current global shortage of cacao, the entire supply chain has been under intense pressure. As a result, Equal Exchange has increased

the prices of all their chocolate and cocoa products, effective immediately, and you can expect to see price increases at our summer sale later this year. Keep reading for an insight into the unprecedented times that have made this price increase necessary.

The global cocoa market

At the start of 2023, the general commodity price of cacao was about \$2,500 per metric ton (MT). The Fair Trade Organic minimum price is \$2,940/MT. Recently, the general commodity market peaked at over \$12,000/MT.

The causes of the price increase are linked to a global shortage, mostly due to poor harvests from key global producers, namely Ivory Coast and Ghana, where primary factors include:

- Serious crop diseases, specifically black pod disease and swollen shoot virus
- Atypical climate patterns, which have exacerbated the diseases and led to drier conditions at harvest time

Many farms are aging and have not been reinvested in; over time, older trees produce less cacao per tree, even in good conditions.

Impact on Equal Exchange

The majority of the cacao we source comes from Peru and the Dominican Republic. However, this year's harvest for our producer partners will likely be mixed due to climate issues in the different production regions. While some harvests are predicted to be good, others will be down. With the current global bean shortage, there is a lot of competition from new buyers at origin. The combined global shortage and buyer competition tend to drive prices up everywhere, so our costs are skyrocketing along with everyone else's. Despite these challenges, we would like to assure you that we currently have an adequate supply of cacao.

Challenges, risks, and opportunities ahead

Our Chocolate team is keeping a close eye on the supply of cocoa. As the supply is limited, the cost of cocoa is unstable, which puts the cocoa supply chains at risk of instability. We are continuously in touch with our farmer partners and the organizations we work with for manufacturing our final products, including cocoa, chocolate bars, minis, and chocolate chips. We're actively



managing each of these product lines' unique supply chains and relationships, and evaluating the risks associated with securing supply and making strategic purchases. Building strong relationships and getting competitive pricing offers are key to securing supply. However, we don't want to purchase too much inventory at peak costs only to have the market come way down and be stuck with costly inventory that can't be sold. In some cases, the current costs are up to 5 times recent costs, which is a financial challenge for the entire supply chain.

Cacao has also become quite suddenly valuable, and theft is a very real concern for farmers and for the co-ops where farmers pool their cacao. Security for both the products and people are a growing priority at this time.



Higher prices do put financial stress on farming cooperatives, but they can offer benefits, in the short term, to small-scale farmers and their families. Because we work with farmers organized into co-ops, the benefits won't just go to individual families, but also to programs that benefit farmer communities. Already with these higher prices, farmers are investing income back into their farms. For farmers, farm health and productivity are the key not just for income today, but for years and generations to come. After over a decade of low prices that were challenging for them, this period of higher prices offers them a chance to re-invest and stabilize for an uncertain future.

Because Equal Exchange partners with organic, fair trade farmers, they are also important stewards of their lands and surrounding ecosystems. The current cacao shortage is a reminder of how vulnerable crops and supply chains can be to climate factors. Equal Exchange supports farmer co-ops who are actively working to manage land in sustainable ways.

We appreciate your continued support for small-scale farmers and their communities during these unprecedented times.

*Equal Exchange CO-OP
May 14, 2024*

The Coffee Project Team hopes to host an Equal Exchange later this summer.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

New church directories are available in the Gathering Area on Sunday. Done with the old directory? Please shred or bring your old copy to church and we will shred it for you!

**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 ARE ON
SUMMER RECESS AND RETURN
SEPTEMBER 8**

**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. Church & Society will take a summer vacation from June until **September 8**, when we'll have our Rally Day Class Reunion and preview of the fall 2024 C & S presentations. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like join via zoom 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 studying 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.

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—(Summer Recess)

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.

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 **June 13** at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—(Summer Recess) 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 contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group will conclude its current study of Christian Nationalism with its zoom meeting on Monday, **June 24**. A new study will begin in September. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at sjj10223@gmail.com.

ST. PHILIP MUSIC

Everyone is invited to contribute towards the music ministry at St. Philip! If you have ever considered participating in the choir or playing handbells, playing an instrument, or want to learn more about music in general, our director of music Justin Langham would be glad to speak with you. You can contact Justin through his church email address justin@saintphilip.net, or meet him by the choir loft entrance after church.



MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

2024 SUMMER ORGAN SERIES



Sunday June 9 | 3:00 pm
Grant Smith, organist



Sunday June 30 | 3:00 pm
Ben Kerswell, organist



Sunday July 21 | 3:00 pm
Grace Roman, soprano
Jim Roman, organist



Sunday August 25 | 3:00 pm
Deux Voix | Justin Langham, trumpet
Stephen Distad, organ

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip



Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church
4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | saintphilip.net

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Philip Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, June 12
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Donor Coach

sponsor code: 0496

****FREE FOR DONORS****
Beach Towel

Scan Below For Appointments:



Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.



Carly, blood recipient



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

*Save lives on
the go with*



Complete your Health History Interview before you come in for your donation.

Go to <https://cflexpress.giveblood.org/> and complete the same day as your appointment.

Donate Today AND CATCH SOME RAYS JUNE 1-30, 2024

Make a splash this summer by donating blood! Donors who give blood in June will receive a **Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center beach towel** as a special thank you for helping patients in local hospitals.

Visit [giveblood.org](https://www.giveblood.org) to schedule an appointment!

While supplies last. Promotional item may be substituted for item of equal value.



IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Rev. Greg Han and family, on the death of his stepfather, Gerald Ashbeck, on April 5, 2024. The service will be held later in the summer.

St. Philippians and their families—Dorothy Blackwell; Bill Morris; Diane Clarke; CJ Miller; Russell Bahruth; Ralph Cherillo; Susan Mitchell; Karen Morris; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Peg Palisin; Mary Herlitz; 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; Jerry Isbell – son-in-law of Bill & Karen Morris; Terese Murphy- cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians - 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; 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: deacons@saintphilip.net

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

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!

It's summertime—the next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:

Tuesday, July 2 Deadline June 27—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.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



Instagram



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net