



ST. PHILIP  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 7, 2021

Volume 65, Issue 16

# PHILIP-EYE

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Pastor, Head of Staff

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Associate Pastor

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Director of Music

**Dr. Matthew Dirst**  
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Newsletter Editor

**Susan Estill**  
Editor Emerita



The theme of St. Philip's stewardship campaign this year is "Come Walk With Us" based on Hebrews 12:1--"*Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us travel with perseverance the path that is set before us.*"

The Stewardship Committee invites and encourages you to share a personal experience or story that has strengthened and deepened your faith in God's provision and promises. Especially during these challenging times, your story may uplift and comfort others in their journey. Young and old are invited to participate. The stories will be included in a booklet in the stewardship package. You are welcome to include a photo, artwork, video, bible verse, prayer or song. Send your contributions to [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net) by September 17th or drop them off at the drive-thru on September 18. If you would prefer, your story may be anonymous.

Please contact us if you have questions.

With Gratitude,  
The Stewardship Committee

Co-Chairs:

*Judye Hartman*

*Judith Hiott*

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*Beth Atkinson*

*Linda Bevill*

*Nadene Crain*

*Chuck Johnson*

*Bill Stubbs*

**MISSION OPPORTUNITY:  
DONATION DRIVE-THROUGH,  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18,  
10 A.M. TO 12 NOON**

You can help spread God's love in support of two mission efforts, the Seafarers Christmas boxes and the CCSC Emergency Services Food Pantry, in one convenient drive-through event. Feel free to bring donations for one or both. Just have your bags in the back seat or back end, and volunteers will pick them up—no need to get out of your car. Blessings for being Mission-Minded!

**1) Seafarers Christmas Boxes**

St. Philip has had a long relationship with our mission partner, the Seafarers Ministry at the Port of Houston. Thousands of seafarers from all over the world pass through the port every year. Seafarers spend months at a time at sea, and each year at Christmas, St. Philip and other churches show our care for them by giving boxes of items that seafarers can use on their voyages. On **September 18**, we will collect items that will be packed into those Christmas boxes. (St. Philip will pack about 125 boxes this year.) Just drive through and drop off any of the items on the list.

If you are wondering what to contribute, items like hotel and sample sizes of toiletries you have on hand at home are always welcome. You also can't go wrong purchasing decks of cards, toothpaste, or work socks. Downsizing small gifts you might find around your home can also be donated, and we will add them to complete the boxes. We will attach small Christmas decorations to the tags we place in the boxes from "St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston".

*We could use more shoe boxes; we would love plastic shoe boxes if you are so inclined, but cardboard ones are also fine.*

**2) CCSC Emergency Services: Non-perishable Food**

St. Philip has partnered with the Christian Community Service Center since it began 40 years ago. We continue to support their many services to the community, and in this drive-through we will collect food for the Food Pantry of their Emergency Services program, which has seen a large increase in clients seeking services over the last 15 months. Mission Committee members will deliver all donated items to CCSC. You are welcome to donate any of the items on the list.

**SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS BOXES**

**TOILETRY/HYGIENE ITEMS**

*(sample or hotel sizes welcome, or small bottles/containers)*

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Shampoo                 | Conditioner                   |
| Body wash               | Lotion                        |
| Combs/brushes           | Bars of soap                  |
| Disposable razors       | Shaving cream                 |
| Toothbrushes            | Toothpaste                    |
| Floss                   | Lip balm                      |
| Nail clippers           | Foot powder                   |
| Cotton swabs            | Bandages <i>(fabric-type)</i> |
| Individual-size tissues | Wash cloths                   |

**FUN STUFF/GAMES**

Decks of cards  
Puzzle books *(Sudoku, word-search, crossword, etc.)*  
Travel-sized checkers or chess  
Texas keychain or small souvenir

**OFFICE SUPPLIES/STATIONERY**

Paper clips/rubber bands      Notebooks *(pocket-size)*  
Pens      USB "thumb drive"  
2022 calendar *(small)*      Texas postcards  
Greeting cards/stationery  
Pencils *(mechanical—no need to sharpen)*

**FOOD ITEMS** *(small, individually-wrapped items only)*

Hard candy/gum      Beef jerky  
Granola bars or energy bars *(heat resistant)*  
*No chocolate, it often melts before boxes are received*

**OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS**

Work socks *(new)*      Work gloves *(new)*  
Baseball caps *(new)*      T-shirts *(new)*  
Extra buttons      Reusable drink bottles  
Knit watch caps *(contact Sue Howard for the pattern if you are a knitter)*  
Small flashlight with batteries  
Sewing kit/needle-and-thread  
Plastic zipper bags or containers  
Shoeboxes *(cardboard or plastic)*

**CCSC EMERGENCY SERVICES:  
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD**

**MOST-NEEDED ITEMS**

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Rice                | Dried beans             |
| Peanut butter       | Boxed dry cereal        |
| Hearty soups        | Pasta                   |
| Pasta sauce         | Macaroni and cheese     |
| Canned tuna/chicken | Canned fruit/vegetables |
| Baby food           |                         |

On Saturday, **September 18**, please do not enter the parking lot at the traffic light. Instead, enter from large parking lot, drive behind the office then between the shopping center and St. Philip. The Mission Committee will have volunteers that will unload your car by the old classrooms. Thank you for your donations.

## SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING

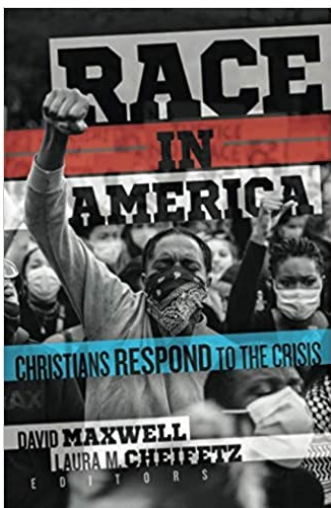
The recipient of September's communion offering is Faith In Practice, a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization that seeks to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of the poor in Guatemala through short-term surgical, medical, and dental mission trips and health-related educational programs. Their website is [faithinpractice.org](http://faithinpractice.org)



Our communion offering in August benefited the students of Liberty High School, an HISD school for recent immigrant teens and young adults. St. Philip's gift will go toward an "Angel Fund" through

which we can meet immediate or unanticipated needs. Over the past year, Mission Committee was able to quickly provide several sets of noise-canceling headphones to help students focus in their online learning during the pandemic, and sweatshirts and jackets for students who had no warm clothing during the winter cold snap. Your contributions raised \$650 for the Angel Fund.

## NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP FORMING.



A social justice book group, under the sponsorship of the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee, will provide a forum for the reading and discussion of social justice topics from the perspective of our Christian faith. The group will meet by Zoom the first Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. The first meeting will be October 5. The study book is *Race in America; Christians respond to the crisis*, edited by David Maxwell and Laura Cheifetz. It is available for

purchase from Amazon or from the PC(USA) bookstore. Persons interested in joining this group can send an email to [welcometo@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcometo@saintphilip.net) and type in PSJ Study Group in the subject line.

Note the date. Join us!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. At our next meeting on September 9 at 7 p.m., we will discuss *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. We will meet in the Dining Room at St. Philip. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Nina Lambright or Sarah O'Dell at [sarah.odell6@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.odell6@gmail.com).

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER**—A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday returns September 8 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](mailto:john@saintphilip.net).

## CHURCH & SOCIETY FALL 2021

**CHURCH & SOCIETY - September 12**, 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. by Zoom. Zoom in to join us for the annual Church & Society class reunion and preview of the fall 2021 presentations. Enjoy being reunited and meeting the presenters for September - December presentations. **September 19** - *"Children in Crisis - Human Trafficking"* - Houston is a mecca for human trafficking, especially during the time for sports events at NRG Stadium. Learn how Judge Bonnie Hellums and her husband, Carl Stith and others, have made NRG Stadium a model for ending human trafficking to be incorporated into stadiums across the country. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

[churchsociety\\_stphilip@comcast.net](mailto:churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net)

## BACK TO SCHOOL: AT ST. PHILIP AND BEYOND

The St. Philip Education Committee has been prayerfully considering the best way forward for faith formation activities in the fall. At this time, we are planning on a delayed start for in-person classes; we considered that it would be best to wait a few weeks for the school year to get settled as we continue to monitor local conditions and guidance from health officials. While there are ways to safely gather in-person, the committee noted the evolving situation in our community, and wishes to proceed with caution. We look forward with hope to a time when it will be safe and comfortable for us to gather, with hope that cooler weather in a couple of months may provide an opportunity to be outside as a church family. Let us pray for all the students, teachers, and administrators navigating their way through the beginning of another school year. We pray for health and wellbeing, in the midst of learning and growth.





## AFGHAN REFUGEES: WE CHOOSE WELCOME

*From the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee*

Did you know that welcome message sometimes displayed on our electronic sign is not just a “warm fuzzy”? It is the name of a PC(USA) awareness campaign that is an expression of personal and corporate commitment to welcome refugees and immigrants into our communities. The phrase stems from a statement made by former Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) Gradye Parsons, in which he urged us to “Choose welcome, not fear.” St. Philip once again can be a welcoming presence as Afghan refugees make their way to Houston.

Here are some key facts:

- Over the next six months or so (starting September 1), Houston can expect to welcome 1500-2500 Afghan refugees.
- The US has evacuated Afghans who have a qualifying relationship with the US. They have all flown into the Dulles, Virginia, airport and are being redirected to three military bases: Fort Lee in Virginia, Fort Bliss in Texas, and Fort McCoy in Wisconsin.
- There may be 600 to 850 Afghans who were granted full special immigrant visas and are assured resettlement in the US, meaning they can go to final resettlement sites and access full refugee benefits.
- A second group of refugees was in the middle of completing their visa processing. This group will be taken to military bases to complete their processing. They will also be sent to their final resettlement sites and can access full refugee benefits.
- A third group of refugees is being called “parolees.” They will also be taken to the military base to be processed. They will be able to apply for asylum. That process currently takes about two years, although officials are discussing speeding up the process. They will be eligible to work. Federal officials are also offering this group reception and placement support, which can cover costs including housing for up to 90 days. After that time, they are not eligible for other benefits.
- All these refugees coming from Afghanistan have been US allies and aides, and, in many cases, put their lives on the line to protect American troops.

Due to its longstanding relationship with Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (IMGH), St. Philip will likely be partnering with their refugee services program to assist with upcoming needs. On August 25, IMGH hosted a briefing on the Afghan crisis, and you can read the *Houston Chronicle's* report on that call here: [Houston's faith community prepares to receive Afghan refugees \(houstonchronicle.com\)](https://houstonchronicle.com/faith-community-prepares-to-receive-Afghan-refugees)

St. Philip being the kind of community that it is, many of you are asking “What can I do?”

- Needs over this period are primarily for monetary donations, since IMGH does not yet know the more specific needs of incoming families and the Delta variant makes in-person contact risky, even for fully vaccinated persons. You can donate at <https://imgh.org>.
- More tangible needs will include the following:
  - ♦ TVs and radios. Federal funds cannot be used to purchase TVs or radios for refugees. IMGH welcomes contributions of new or gently used equipment. These media resources will help refugees as they acculturate to America.
  - ♦ Rugs. Afghans appreciate rugs as an important part of their home furnishings. They are even more important than chairs.
  - ♦ Apartment set-up. Shop IMGH's emergency refugee need list at [IMGH Amazon wish list](#).

And if you would be interested in more personal involvement, perhaps as part of a more formal refugee team that St. Philip might form, please email [psj@saintphilip.net](mailto:psj@saintphilip.net) with Refugee Team in the subject line.

Together let us respond to God's call to welcome the stranger. “Don't mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself.” (Leviticus 19:33–34a)

Typical apartment set-up for refugees.



## IN OUR PRAYERS

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**—Saturday, **September 18** at 3:00 p.m. there will be a memorial service for Paul and Alice Pennington in the Sanctuary. Masks are required. The service will also be live-streamed at [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)

*We lift in prayer all students, teachers, and administrators as they begin a new school year under increasingly complicated circumstances.*

**St. Philippians and their families**—Joyce Fugit; Sondra Sullivan; Orlean Anderson; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Roderick James; Deb Burks; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Dave Berry—husband of Sam Fisher; Dale McAllen—brother of Orlean Anderson; Alma Fonseca—mother of Angelina Fonseca; Bill Polk—brother-in-law of Sharon Webb; Darryl Cazes—brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Gretchen Everhart—Niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Mac & Beverly Wilson—parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore—mother of Chuck Johnson; 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**—Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

**Friends of St. Philippians**—Paul English; Matt Scalapino and Laura Chilton—friends of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Rob Bond, Lavon Thomas, 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.

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

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email [deacons@saintphilip.net](mailto: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: September 21; Deadline [September 16—3:00 p.m.](http://saintphilip.net)**

**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](mailto:philipeye@saintphilip.net) or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



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