

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
Volume 57, Number 23

Houston, Texas
4 November 2013

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Judith Northrop
Ministry Associate

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Thomas Goetz
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Laurie Fortenbery
Office Manager
Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper
Micah Meyers
Communications Assistant

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor
Dimas Parada
Custodian
Peter Ramadan
Custodian

Susan Estill
Newsletter Editor
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Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Stewardship, 2014 “Extending God’s Grace”

Lectionary Readings

November 10, 2013
25th Sunday after Pentecost
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
or Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 17, 2013
26th Sunday after Pentecost
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 24, 2013
Christ the King/Reign of Christ
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Highlights of the October 15, 2013 Session Meeting

John Lemen, Clerk of Session

- Session called a meeting of the congregation for October 27th following the 11:00 am Service of Worship for the purpose of electing officers.
- The Session elected Bill Morris and Vicki McKay Elder-Commissioners to the November 9th Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Covenant, with Shirley Coffman elected as an alternate.

Recently you should have received by mail a packet of information about current and proposed ministries of our church. Please review this information carefully and consider prayerfully your pledge of gifts, monetary and time and talent, for the work of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in 2014.

St. Philip is extending God’s grace to more and more people both in our community and internationally. Our new associate pastor, Keatan King, is building our ministry with youth and young adults. Our Kids Against Hunger and Living Waters for the World programs grow our mission outreach. We have new members, new classes, and new programs. We can be thankful that God is moving in our church and in our lives.

As we work together to expand opportunities for our church, the budget to support those opportunities also grows. In order to meet church expenses for 2014, an increase of 5.2% in pledged revenue is needed to balance total anticipated revenue with planned expenses.

Of course, supporting our church’s ministry requires more than financial commitment. It also requires a commitment of time and talent. There are many ways in which we can volunteer to support the life of our church and to glorify God.

Commitment Sunday is this coming Sunday, November 10. During the worship service, we will be invited to offer our Pledge Cards and our Time and Talent surveys with joy and thanksgiving. If you are not able to attend church next Sunday, please return your cards and surveys to the church as soon as convenient.

2 Corinthians 4:15 *“So that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving to the glory of God.”*

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: none known

Recuperating: **Mary McKelvey; Paul Pennington; Sondra Sullivan** at The Crescent, Sugar Land; **Larry Dean** at Seven Acres; **Dan Cooper** in Fort Worth

At home: **Grayson Anderson, Barbara Eudey**

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Judith Hiott and family** on the death of her father on November 1.

Check These Announcements

Presbyterian Men's Weekly Fellowship encourages all men of the church to meet on Fridays at Noon in the office conference room. Enjoy your own fabulous lunch (BYO lunch) along with lively conversation and book study. We are studying *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?*, by Martin Thielen. Get a copy of the book by calling the church office. Grab a sandwich and join us!!

At the October 27th meeting of the congregation the **following were elected to serve as officers of our church**: Elder: Mary Benson, Ed Hess, John Lindsay, Martha Red, Jenilee Simmons, Randy Steward, and Carolyn Vestal; Deacon Ann Frautschi; Trustee Carla Burns. Their ordination and/or installation will take place during the January 12, 2014 Service of Worship.

Volunteer Opportunity: Lord of the Streets (LOTS)

The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, November 17. We gather in the St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 am to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and are back at the church by 9:00 am in time for Sunday School. Fifteen volunteers are needed. If November 17 is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying mission project.

All are invited to Friday Phil-Up on November 15 at Barry's Pizza (Richmond @ Fountain View). We will gather at 6:00 pm for food and fellowship. Childcare is available at the church from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Call the church office to RSVP for your child.

The Philip-Eye will be published on November 18, December 2 and 16. Please submit information and articles in a timely manner. 10:00 am on the day of publication is the deadline. E-mail to philip-eye@saintphilip.net or leave in the PE box in the mail room.

From Your Pastor:

Dear Friends,

Along with our pledges of financial support for 2014, we will also receive in worship this Sunday our offerings of time and talent. These are equally important to the health of our church. The financial side understandably receives a good bit of attention in this season, and rightfully so, since we can only do as much ministry as we are able to fund. Collectively, we need to increase our giving about 5% next year in order to do all that we sense God is calling us to do. Deb and I intend to increase our pledge. If you are able to do so, I hope you will join us.

However, as we look at budgets and prepare pledges, let's not overlook the significance of our offerings of time and talent. The sheets that have been distributed have a variety of opportunities for service and commitment, inviting us to use our gifts and follow our interests for the benefit of our life together.

As you complete your time and talent forms, remember that we have ongoing needs for greeters and ushers. Folks in these ministry positions play a significant role in welcoming newcomers, extending hospitality, and helping us prepare for worship. Ideally, each Sunday we will have five greeters in order to adequately attend our many entrances. Our ideal number of ushers is eight. We frequently struggle to fill these slots, which in turn keeps us from realizing the promise of this ministry.

Folks who study such things tell us that visitors' initial experiences with how they are greeted at the door and welcomed into a new space often determine their interest in returning. In other words, what happens to people on their way to a seat in the sanctuary matters even more than what they experience in the worship service itself. Accordingly, a full complement of greeters and ushers is essential if we are to be the welcoming congregation we seek to be. We are in a time when we have considerable numbers of visitors coming our way every Sunday. While we hope they will return, that doesn't happen without effort and intention on our part.

In regards to regular church attenders, attentive and available greeters and ushers help foster a sense of community, extending a friendly welcome and tending to the various dimensions of our being together.

What is needed to be a greeter or an usher? A willingness to serve and a hospitable spirit are the chief requirements, qualities that hardly eliminate any of us. As you complete your time and talent forms, please consider indicating an interest to serve occasionally in these important positions, so that we can do our best to welcome all the people God seeks to gather at St. Philip.

If you can't be in worship Sunday, please return your time and talent, as well as your pledge cards, to the church office when convenient.

Faithfully yours,



Music at St. Philip Concert Series: "Music for a Princess"

Don a tiara and join Houston's Grammy nominated early music ensemble Ars Lyrica, Matthew Dirst, and organist Annette Richards for "Music for a Princess," a special concert on November 16 at 7:30 pm, featuring works from the storied music library of Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia. Sister to Frederick the Great of Prussia and a fine musician herself, Princess Anna Amalia enjoyed the company of the leading musicians of her day, including several former students of J. S. Bach.

Making her Houston debut on this program, Cornell University Organist and Professor of Music Annette Richards will be joined by the Ars Lyrica Ensemble and Matthew Dirst in C. P. E. Bach's Concerto in G Major for strings and organ plus several sinfonias by J. S. Bach. As a performer Dr. Richards specializes in music of the Italian and North German Baroque, and has played concerts on numerous historic and modern instruments in Europe and the United States. Richards has recently recorded a CD of music from the Princess Amalia collection on a new German Baroque-style organ at Cornell and the program at St. Philip will include several solo organ works from the recording.

This program is family-friendly: children dressed in royal costumes (little princes and princesses) will be admitted free with the purchase of an adult ticket (one child per adult). Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door on the day of the performance.

Israel: A Journey to Holy Land February 19-29, 2014

Join Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church and Rev. David Jones for a trip to the Holy Land in early 2014. Highlights will include visits to Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Caesarea, Tiberias, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Qumran, Bethlehem, the Church of the Nativity, the Mount of Olives, Mt. Zion, and the Wailing Wall. We will enjoy the wonder of the Dead Sea and "float" in its tranquil, healing waters. We will ascend the ancient walls of Masada, a UNESCO World Heritage site, by cable car and relax for four nights in the holy city of Jerusalem.

The trip price includes round trip airfare from Houston IAH, air taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel transfers, 10 days lodging, and 15 meals. Not included in the price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$220 per person. There are also several add-on tours not included should you wish to extend your vacation. Bill and Karen Morris have signed on to go and would love to have some St. Philip members fill out the few remaining open spots. For more information, go to the church's website <http://www.wcpc-tx.org>, email Rev. David Jones at djones@wcpc-tx.org or call him at 281-363-2040. Please spread the word!

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Happy 93rd Birthday today (November 4) to **Rosemary McBride**. Mrs. McBride's birthday was inadvertently left off the November list.

Sunday School Classes for All

Classes for Children

Nursery (Birth to 3 yrs old)

in Room 106

"Bible Babies"

Preschool (3yrs through 1st grade)

in room 105

"Godly Play"

Elementary Age Children

Room 105

"Feasting on the Word"

Youth

Room 206

"Feasting on the Word"

A lectionary-based curriculum.

Adult Classes

The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Room 200

Uses Peter Gomes, The Good Book, as the curriculum for a discussion-based class.

The Bible Study Class

Room 204

a study of Deuteronomy

led by Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop.

Church and Society

November 17

Alternative Christmas Market - No class.

November 24

Human Trafficking in Houston

Ruben Perez, Assistant US Attorney and Chief of the Civil Rights Division for the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas.

Ruben worked through the United States federal government shutdown of 2013 without support staff to get everything in order after the October 10 indictment and sweep of a human trafficking ring in Houston, and will tell us about it, as well as update us generally with respect to the human trafficking problem.

December 1

The seven deadly sins as depicted in works of art
Linda Neagley, PhD, associate professor of art history at Rice University, returns to convey to us how the "seven deadly sins" have appeared in art, from their inception to the Renaissance.

All classes begin at 9:30

Support Judy!!

The Rev. Judith Northrop is a marathoner; yes, you knew that. But did you know that our very own Judy has pledged to run in the Houston Marathon on January 19, 2014 for the benefit of Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services? Her pledge means that she raises money for her designated charity through the support of friends and family. Since we at St. Philip are both her friends and her extended family, we need to make our individual pledges to Judy to help her meet her fund-raising pledge. If this is something you want to do, it can be done through her fundraising page on the PCHAS website, which will be set up shortly, or directly to Judy. We will let you know in detail how to do that in the near future. In the meantime, resolve to be one of Judy's supporters and then make it happen.

The Mission Committee will participate on behalf of Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services at the PCHAS 5-mile Marathon Refueling Station at River Oaks Elementary School on race day. If you would like to help pass out water and cheer on the runner, you are invited to join us. More later.

PrimeTimers Activities

Join the PrimeTimers November 18th for a visit to the Houston Museum of Natural Science to view the new IMAX 3-D film "Jerusalem." The film explores on a grand scale the intersections of science, history, and religion that animate the holy city that is sacred to half the Earth's people. This cinematic journey provides exclusive access to sites such as the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee and the fortress of Masada.

The bus will leave the church parking lot at 9:00 am. Our \$8 ticket will allow us to visit other exhibits at the museum before the 11:00 am showing of "Jerusalem." After lunch we will return to the church. Call the church office to sign up.

Save The Date.....The PrimeTimer Christmas Luncheon will be at The Hallmark on December 21st.



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Living Waters for the World Needs

The Living Waters for the World Team will head out to Mexico soon for our installation of a water filtering system. When we install a system, one of our tasks is to educate the local community. In order to complete this task we need the following materials (which are left behind when we leave): liquid soap pump, paper towels, crayons, colored markers, glue sticks, glitter sticks, children's scissors, paper plates, crepe paper, masking & scotch tape, dish soap and tempera paints.

Please give generously! You may place your items in the designated box in the gathering area. With questions, call Joyce Fox at 832-265-0760.

CCSC 's "Grow, Gather, Give"

Saturday, November 9, 2013

5:30-7:30 pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Hauser Hall

3816 Bellaire Boulevard, 77025

A casual garden party featuring:

Live Entertainment - Wine Tasting

Beer Garden - Silent Auction

Early reservations are \$40

and available for purchase at

http://www.ccschouston.org/Grow_Gather_and_Give.html



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