



January 21, 2020

Volume 64, Issue 2

# PHILIP-EYE

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

**Rev. Keatan King**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Omar Rouchon**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Dr. Randall Swanson**  
Director of Music

**Dr. Matthew Dirst**  
Organist

**Cecy Duarte**  
Children's Music Associate

**Micah Meyers**  
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**Lorrie Castle**  
Office Manager  
Newsletter Editor

**Susan Estill**  
Editor Emerita

*Each June, members of St Philip Presbyterian Church travel to the Texas Hill Country for a long weekend of Christian fellowship. In the beautiful surroundings of Mo-Ranch, we study, play, and relax as a church family. Our program begins after supper on Thursday, **June 4** and continues through morning worship on Sunday, **June 7**. Many families arrive earlier on Thursday to enjoy the ranch and time in the river. Most of us find it difficult to leave on Sunday.*

## *My Mo-ranch story*

*The Texas Hill Country is a geographic region located in the Edwards Plateau at the crossroads of West Texas, Central Texas, and South Texas. Given its location, climate, terrain, and vegetation, the Hill Country can be considered the border between the American Southwest and Southeast. Wikipedia*

My first adventure to the Hill Country was with St. Philip around 2010 at Mo-Ranch. I can't tell you exactly how many times I have been because I lost my first name tag, then got married to David Castle so I needed a new one (thank you, Tom Lewis) and just had a hard time keeping up with the beads each year. To say all that, it has always been fun. I have the memories even if I don't have the beads. The first two trips were before we got married, and the wonderful planning team (Jeanie Flowers, room coordinator extraordinaire) found roommates for me. Sadly, each year these individuals had to cancel at the last minute; you might have thought no one wanted to stay with me. The fun went on anyway.

A church retreat—I had never been on one and anticipated a bunk house because it was a 'ranch'; I was surprised when I saw the hotel style rooms. Wow! We usually arrived late on Thursday night so I didn't really see much more than that until morning. The first walk to breakfast I saw the old chuck wagon and all the buildings around a beautifully shaded grass area. King Dining Hall was massive and loud and we were welcomed at any table for the meals. I really got to meet and know so many more St. Philipians than you do at church on Sunday.

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After the insightful speaker sessions, there is so much fun to be had. I recall my first time at the rapids, so refreshing. David enjoys birding and I enjoy wild flowers so we always are able to see both at various places around Mo-Ranch. There are always crafts (yeah!) and the Friday night socials, square dancing or a talent show, a BBQ by the river, meditation and more. Recently we have had fly fishing, bingo, drum circles, and bible study in the rapids. (Keatan laminates the lesson!). I hope I have piqued your interest if you haven't been, and if you have, then reminded you why you need to go again this year. —

*Lorrie Castle*

## **VOLUNTEER**

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the Mo-Ranch committee, please email Melissa Aldrich at [aldrimel@comcast.net](mailto:aldrimel@comcast.net). Assistance needed in planning activities for all ages, coordinating prayer leaders, scheduling, and promotions.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **February 9** in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 service. The agenda includes a review of 2019, presentation of the 2020 budget, consideration of changes to the pastors' terms of call for 2020, and the election of representatives to the congregational nominating committee.

## **MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION**

Come to the Fellowship Hall directly after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting for some excellent food, conversation, music and fun!! Donations appreciated to offset costs. See you there!!

## **LENT VBS**

Parents mark your calendars for Lent VBS on Saturday, **March 28**. More details to follow. If you would like to volunteer, contact Omar Rouchon at [omar@saintphilip.net](mailto:omar@saintphilip.net).

## **WE CHOOSE WELCOME**

Have you driven by St. Philip recently and seen the message "We Choose Welcome" on the electronic sign on San Felipe? Did you know that "**We Choose Welcome**" is more than just a general message of welcome? It is actually an awareness campaign of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and an expression of personal and corporate commitment to welcome refugees and immigrants into our communities. The phrase stems from a statement by former PC(USA) Stated Clerk of Gradye Parsons, urging us to "Choose welcome, not fear." The denomination suggests that this includes the following:

- ◊ In the midst of fear of terrorism and radicalism, we choose to welcome those who flee from terror and tyranny.
- ◊ In the midst of hate speeches and hate crimes, we choose to welcome those rejected because of their skin color or unusual dress.
- ◊ In the midst of anxiety about our own economic prosperity, we choose to welcome those who come from distant lands to labor in our fields and warehouses.
- ◊ In the midst of political debates that seek to divide us between those who are born here and those who are not, we choose welcome, a welcome for all children of God, proclaiming one household.

St. Philip committed to the *We Choose Welcome* campaign in 2016, and in 2017 we prepared to welcome a refugee family the following year. (If you would like to read more about that, see our guest blog post for the Presbyterian Mission Agency: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/weekly-offerings/2018/08/29/peace-global-witness-houston-church-chooses-welcome/>.) In March 2018 we met a wonderful family from Iraq and quickly developed a close relationship with the couple and their two young children. (For their continued safety and security, we may not share identifying information such as names.) Later that year the family relocated to Midland, TX, where they still live and work.

Peacemaking & Social Justice committee members and other St. Philipians trained to work with refugees have kept in contact with the family. We reached out after the recent killing of Qassem Suleimani, and received this response, which we wanted to share. (It has not been edited for content.)

*All my friends at St. Philip,*

*We're really going through tough days thinking of my family, parents and siblings, and those loved ones in Baghdad now, the situation there is not good at all, people are living in tension life and got tired of living in war zone has never been stopped, all that is adding a heavy weight on us, trying to focus on work and at the same time thinking about my family and the innocent people in Baghdad, hoping none of them get hurt.*

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*As always my family at St. Philip Church relief the pressure that applies on me and my family, thank you all and I really appreciate each one of you all, and thanks for the prayers.*

*Thank you for your kind words, we love you!*

*So thankful to have you all in our life.*

*God is good, God bless you all.*

America's openness to refugees has been a distinct feature of our country from its foundation. In the periods when the country was not open to refugees and asylum seekers, such as during the Holocaust, it later became clear that we were on the wrong side of history. The White House's announcement of an annual admissions ceiling of 18,000 refugees, and Governor Abbott's ban on new refugees in Texas, come at a time when the number of people fleeing conflict around the world is the highest since World War II.

To welcome others is a central value of the Christian faith, and shared by most of the world's religions. The call to welcome the stranger is so common in the Bible that one must wonder if that is because of its importance, or because we are so quick to disregard it. Faith-based organizations in the United States have been at the forefront of refugee resettlement. Many faith-based leaders and organizations have called for more, not less, openness to welcoming refugees.

St. Philip is committed to making good on the promise that our welcome signs proclaim. **We Choose Welcome** of our refugee and immigrant neighbors – not fear. —*Kate Burkart*

## DUERR LECTURE SERIES

The speaker for the 23rd annual Duerr Lecture Series, **February 23, 24, and 25**, is Rev. Deborah L. Forger, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Scholar, Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College. Dr. Forger holds degrees from Calvin College, Duke University, and University of Michigan, and is an ordained Presbyterian Minister. Most of her academic work and research has focused on the Gospel of John and Second Temple Period Jewish literature. After the Tree-of-Life synagogue massacre last fall, however, she felt compelled to start writing more on the topic of the Bible and antisemitism. Title of the lectures is **“Christian Biblical Interpretation and Christian Antisemitism: Exploring an Unfortunate Link.”** Dr. Forger will preach at the 11:00 a.m. worship services and present lectures each evening at 7:00 p.m. Lectures are free and open to everyone. There will only be an 11:00 a.m. service on **February 23**.

*Duerr  
Lecture  
Series*

## LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO DO PEACE AND JUSTICE WORK IN 2020?

Here are areas where St. Philip's Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee has discerned God is leading us to work this year. Keep your eyes open for opportunities where you might wish to be involved on an ad hoc basis!

- ◇ Conversations of civility, dignity, and respect
- ◇ Earth care
- ◇ Gun violence prevention/response
- ◇ Human trafficking
- ◇ LGBTQIA+ inclusion
- ◇ Racial equity
- ◇ Refugees/immigrants
- ◇ US Census
- ◇ Voter registration/Get Out the Vote

We look forward to your joining us in our work toward God's *shalom* and social justice in our community and around the world. For more information in the meantime, contact Kate Burkart (committee chair) at [kiburkart@comcast.net](mailto:kiburkart@comcast.net).

## CONGRATULATIONS

### REV. DR. FAIRFAX FAIR

Fairfax Fair was installed as Designated Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena on Sunday, January 19. Fairfax is Walker Fair's mother. May God bless Fairfax in her ministry.



Join us for a long weekend of Christian fellowship in the beautiful surroundings of Mo-Ranch in the Texas Hill Country to study, play, and relax as a church family. This year's event begins after supper on Thursday, **June 4** and continues through worship on Sunday morning, **June 7**.

MO-RANCH

You may pay in full at the time of registration or in three installments (**March 2, April 6, May 4**). Confirmations and bills will be sent out by email. (Please be sure that the email you provide is correct and is an address you check regularly.) All registrations must be complete and paid by March 2 (first payment, if paying in installments.) No refunds can be made after **March 2**. If you do not cancel your reservation by that date, you must pay for your room whether you go or not. **WE REGRET WE CANNOT HOLD SPACE FOR ANYONE WITHOUT A COMPLETED REGISTRATION.**

### PRICING:

Pricing for a room in Wynne, Flato, or Pheasant Run lodge depends on how many adults will share the room. Prices for adults include lodging and all meals from breakfast Friday through breakfast Sunday. Children and youth are billed only for their meals (but must be accompanied by at least one adult per room).

The pricing for a room in Manor House does not include meals. To book in Manor House, select the room when registering the first adult in your group, then select meals for each person in the group.

**If you wish to have Thursday dinner at Mo-Ranch, you must select that separately. Cost: Adults and Youth \$14.50; Children (ages 4-11) \$10.25**

#### WYNNE LODGE/FLATO LODGE (each room has two queen beds)

Adult (single accommodation): \$469

Adult (room shared by 2 adults): \$286 each

Adult (room shared by 3 adults): \$225 each

Adult (room shared by 4 adults): \$195 each

Youth 12-18 in same room: \$82 per child

Children 4-11: \$60 per child

#### PHEASANT RUN (most rooms have two beds)

Adult (single accommodation): \$439

Adult (room shared by 2 adults): \$271 each

Adult (room shared by 3 adults): \$215 each

Adult (room shared by 4 adults): \$187 each

Youth 12-18 in same room: \$82 per child

Children 4-11: \$60 per child

**MANOR HOUSE** - This lodging is reserved for families. All sleeping rooms share a common living room. There are large rooms with multiple beds (some twins, some queens in varying combinations. We will match your family to the best available room.)

Room Cost: \$544 per family

Meals (Friday Breakfast through Sunday Breakfast):

Adults: \$82 per adult

Youth 12-18 in same room: \$82 per child

Children 4-11: \$60 per child

### ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION:

Registration will be online at [Saintphilip.net](http://Saintphilip.net) or you can register in the Gathering Area with the volunteers on Sunday. On the first screen, you will need to add each family member attending. (When you see 'Mo-Ranch Reservation (Free)' it means only that there is no service charge for using the online system.)

You will select each person's lodging and meal on the second screen, and will be asked further questions about participants in your group as you complete the process.

### PAYMENT:

At the end of the online registration process, you will have the option of paying immediately by credit card or paying by mail or in person at the church office.

If you are setting up a payment plan, you will choose the option to Pay In Person/Mail. Indicate Payment Plan in the memo box. You may then make payments in the office or sign in to MyStPhilip and make payments to the Mo-Ranch Fund on **March 2, April 6** and **May 4**.

To learn more about Mo-Ranch, visit the table in the Gathering Area before and after the 11:00 worship service on **January 26, February 2** and **9**.

# MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP 2019-2020 SEASON

## ◆ Winter-Spring FREE programs ◆



### Into the Night

SUNDAY | **JANUARY 26, 2020** | 6:00 p.m.

Featuring many of the excellent musicians of the **Houston Symphony**, the **Greenbriar Consortium** returns tonight with this program celebrating time — featuring **Grieg's *Morgen***, **Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun***, **Vivaldi's "La notte"** concerto, **Stravinsky's *Song of the Nightingale***, and selections from **Sondheim's *A Little Night Music***.



### Night Music for Leap Day

SATURDAY | **FEBRUARY 29, 2020** | 7:30 p.m.

Join us in the evening on Leap Day 2020 for the incomparable artistry of vocalist **Cecy Duarte** with pianist **Paul English** and an ensemble of amazing acoustic musicians. The program will feature the quieter, more intimate side of night music, with original works composed by **Paul English**, and a few musical surprises along the way. Bring a date — this will be a night to remember!



### Child Piano Prodigies

SUNDAY | **MARCH 29, 2020** | 3:00 p.m.

As part of our ongoing commitment to children in the arts, we are excited to present the winners of **Houston Tuesday Musical Club's 2020 Rochelle Liebling Kahan Memorial Fund Competition for Child Piano Prodigies**, open to Houston area children between the ages of six and nine. Come prepared to be dazzled! And join us for free ice cream afterward.



### Music of Meditation

SATURDAY | **APRIL 11, 2020** | 5:00 p.m.

Gather with us in the stillness of **Holy Saturday** as **Matthew Dirst**, **Cecilia Duarte**, and **Randall Swanson** present music of meditation on the mysteries of the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Christ, featuring **Robert Fleming's** hauntingly beautiful ***The Confession Stone*** for voice and piano, **Hendrik Andriessen's *Miroir de peine*** for voice and organ, plus solo organ works.



### Fritts Organ Tenth Anniversary

SUNDAY | **APRIL 19, 2019** | 5:00 p.m.

Our 2019-2020 music season culminates in this gala concert featuring world-renowned French organ duo **Olivier Vernet** and **Cédric Meckler**. Together they present a program unlike anything ever heard on the St. Philip Fritts organ before, with transcriptions of incidental and ballet music by **Rameau**, **Mendelssohn**, **Stravinsky** and **Ravel** — including ***Bolero***! Not to be missed!

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4807 SAN FELIPE STREET | HOUSTON

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## WEEKDAY CLASSES

### WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

John Wurster is leading a Bible study series focused on ten biblical characters, who come from all corners of Scripture. Some are famous, some are infamous, some are hardly known, and most all are misunderstood. The *10 for 20* study meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Dining Room AND Sunday mornings at 9:45 in Room 202. The material in Wednesday class will be repeated on Sunday. You are welcome to come either Wednesday or Sunday, as your schedule allows.

### WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK GROUP

A monthly interest group for women who like to read books, socialize, and have a night out meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting is **February 13** at the home of Nancy Higgs. We will be discussing *The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and

wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at [sarah.odell6@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.odell6@gmail.com).

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. We continue our look at the book *The Good and Faithful Servant* by Hugh Hewitt. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in the Conference Room at noon. Men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. The group wraps up promptly at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Gary Gardner at [ggardne148@aol.com](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com) if you have any questions and would like to join them. The group will meet this week on **January 10**.

### MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus) **January 27** with St. Philip's Monday evening study group! Besides conversation, our meetings include

fellowship, refreshments, and a brief devotional, as we continue our study of *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg. We will be discussing chapter 8 (Thin places: Opening the heart). We meet each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Come even if you haven't done the reading; the discussion is always timely and thought-provoking.

### PUB CLUB

Pub Club is a group for men in the church who like to enjoy fellowship, stories and spirited discussion once a month at a local pub. Pub Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Due to the holidays, watch the announcements and newsletter for the next update. Men interested in attending may eat beforehand or order food from the pub. For more information or questions, please contact Tim Burgess at [TimRB1987@gmail.com](mailto:TimRB1987@gmail.com).

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*John Lemen and family upon the death of his mother Virginia Lemen on January 15. Memorial service to be February 1 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Philip.*

*Prayers for family and friends of Rev. Sally Hinchman who died on Friday, January 17, in Kentucky. Sally served the Presbytery of New Covenant as Associate General Presbyter and was active at St. Philip.*

**St. Philippians and their families**—Paxton Williams; Marion Takehara; Clara Reed-Lee, Nathan Lee and baby; CJ Miller; Rita Hannah; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; John Bobbitt; Arlette Keene; Betty Golemon; Betty Martin—mother of Jon Martin; Harry Todd—father of Alison Newport; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; Barb Carlin—mother of Nate Carlin; Jack Kindig—brother of Ginny Camfield; Shirley and Weldon Boggus, Sr.—grandparents of Omi Ford; Jimmy Reagan—father of Sarah O'Dell; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; Ralph Arlinghaus—father of Paul Arlinghaus; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell.

**Homebound:** Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Donna Host; T.E. "Joe" Kever; Toto McGehee; Phillip McDaniel; Paul & Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Bob Stanley; Virginia McFarland; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

**Friends of St. Philippians—St. Philippians and their families**—Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Leland Daniel—friend of Jane Cooper; Frank Wallace—friend of Jim & Nadene Crain; Willie Jo Schaefer—friend of Pam Rush; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin & Gary Willis.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Classes begin at 9:45.

**Godly Play** (Age 3 to K)—Room 104 - *Omi Ford, Joyce Fox, and Ruthie Waldrop*

**Grades 1—2** - Room 105 - for the first four weeks - *Kara D'Agostino and Paul D'Agostino*

**Grades 3—5** - Room 103 - *Paul Arlinghaus and Linda Bevil*

**Grades 6—8** - Room 206 - *Charles Swan*

**Grades 9-12** - Room 205 - *Keatan King and John Lemen*

### CHURCH & SOCIETY

Room 201 - Leaders Mickey Meyers & C J Miller—**January 26** - The Electoral College: Why the founders created it, and its effect on elections today- The Electoral College consists of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the President. Your state's entitled allotment of electors equals the number of members in its Congressional delegation: one for each member in the House of Representatives plus two for your Senators. Presented by Prof. Nancy Beck Young - Univ. of Houston

History Dept. **February 2** - The Immigration Mess: One Presbyterian's Story - A timely and important presentation and discussion about the current status of those seeking asylum to the USA. Heartbreaking and maddening, this is a story that must be told. See and hear about Nancy Kral's numerous trips to the border to help asylum seekers, AND what you (and St. Philip) can do to help. Presented by Nancy Kral - Team Brownsville volunteer, and member of Northwoods Presbyterian Church.

### BIBLE STUDY

Room 204 – Al Waldrop, leader. We are studying the Psalms, primarily from the NRSV and Dr. Robert Alter's *The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary*.

### SPA

Room 200 - SPa will be merging with the *10 for 20* class that John Wurster is teaching on Sundays for the next few weeks in Room 202. The Saint Philip Adults class is a fellowship of adults from all walks of life who gather for learning and community. It is an interactive/ conversation/ dialogue-based class. Sharing leadership is easy and fun and asking questions is what it is all about.

Contact: [Omar@saintphilip.net](mailto:Omar@saintphilip.net).

### CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

**January 26**—Children in pre-K through first grade are invited to attend Children's Chapel with Rev. Omar Rouchon and a parent helper following the conversation with children during the 11 o'clock service on the second and fourth Sundays. In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship, while praying, singing 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.

### 10 FOR 20

Room 202—John Wurster, leader. See description of Midweek Bible Study class.

## Next edition: February 3

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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