

PHILIP-EYE



Gratitude Beyond Stewardship

THE GENEROUS PATH: CULTIVATING GENEROSITY THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

God's gift of generosity: Gratitude beyond stewardship

Stewardship season is upon us! You have received your stewardship packet in the mail by now, and you can look forward to one more week of St. Philipians reflecting in worship on what St. Philip and stewardship mean to them. Look also for the rollout of our webpage and some video remarks from more friendly faces that might be familiar to you!

This is the final column in this series, reviewing some ideas from a recent book by Presbyterian pastor, lecturer, and worship leader the Rev. Karl Travis. Your 2025 Stewardship Committee has adopted the title of this book, expressed above, to help us frame how we think about these things in our walk with God, no matter what time of year or “season” we might be in.

This year's stewardship season is built around three simple but profound questions:

1. How is God generous with you?
2. How might you be more generous with others?
3. How will our congregation be generous in the coming year?

Here are some concluding ideas Travis shares, to help close out our reflections of stewardship, gratitude, and God's generosity:

On tithing

In traditional language, when we share our resources, we “return God's tithe and our offerings.” Many modern congregations now say “our tithes and offerings,” but the older wording expresses a deeper truth: everything we have belongs to God. When we return *God's* tithe, we acknowledge that what we give is already God's gift to us. When we speak of giving *our* tithes, the focus shifts to what we do. The difference reminds us that generosity begins not with our action, but with God's abundance.

Is the Church theologically unique?

Should the Church be measured only by what it *does*—its programs, services, and outreach—or also by what it *is*? The Church is more than an organization; it is the body of Christ, called into being and sustained by the Holy Spirit. It is a covenant family into which God gathers the baptized, a worshiping people nourished at God's table and by God's Word. The Church is that beautifully diverse and even subversive community meant to embody and offer glimpses of the coming kingdom of heaven.

Your Stewardship Committee is grateful to walk alongside you in this season. Together we celebrate God's generosity, St. Philip's faithful witness, and the call to imagine how we can be even more generous in the year ahead. Please reach out to the Committee with your questions or concerns (stewardship@saintphilip.net).

Stewardship packets went out in the mail October 29, if you have not received yours by **November 7** reach out to the Stewardship Committee or click on this link—[Online Stewardship Packet](#). Pledge cards will be received during worship on **November 16**.

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Justin Langham
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

CAMPUS PLANNING UPDATE NOVEMBER 23

Following worship on November 23, we will have a congregational forum in Fellowship Hall with updates on our campus planning process. Earlier this year, the Session authorized an exploration of how to optimize our buildings and grounds to support our current and future ministry. The architectural firm English+Associates was engaged to lead this study. Among the topics considered was the current utilization of spaces across the church campus, maintenance costs, looming capital expenditures, operational efficiency, environmental sustainability, and security. As the architects studied these topics, they met regularly with our planning team (Dan Boston, John Hartman, John Lemen, Rhonda Sands, Peter Schneider, and John Wurster) and gathered information from the congregation via a summer survey. At last month's Session meeting, the architects shared a very general design concept of an efficient campus plan that involves removing buildings that are past their useful lives and adding a new building that will provide better space for our ministry need. In response to expressed needs from the congregation, the plan seeks to preserve green space and developing more convenient parking. The Session received this report with a consensus that it should be shared with the congregation for review and comment. In addition to the forum in Fellowship Hall on **November 23**, a presentation will also be held in the dining room on **December 14** at 9:30 a.m. Please come and help us consider how best to use our resources in service to Jesus Christ.



Bring your checkbook, credit card, or cash when learn and support our mission partners. The participating organizations are listed to the right. Some may have items that you want to buy for Christmas gifts and others you can make a donation in the name of someone for a gift if you want. All shoppers receive a shopping card upon entry which you will take from agency to agency as you speak with them, then if you purchase or make a donation it should be recorded on there. All monies are collected at one check out and dispersed to the appropriate organization.

But there is more! Donors have donated items to be auctioned off and proceeds benefit the mission partner of their choice. Some of what to watch for: Houston Rockets tickets; tickets for TUTS Million Dollar Quartet, Ars Lyrica, Houston Grand Opera, and Houston Masterworks Chorus; gift baskets from the Houston Junior Women's Forum, and the coveted communion bread made by John Wurster. Bidding closes at 1:00 p.m. but you can leave a maximum bid with Sharon Webb or get a friend to bid for you and later you can pick it up in the office after you have paid for it.

Organizations that will be represented:

Ars Lyrica
Austin Seminary
Bridges to Life
Christian Community Service Center
Equal Exchange product sales
Faith In Practice
Haiti Children's Nutrition Program
Have Shears Will Travel
Hope and Healing Center
Houston Hope of the Nations
Interfaith Ministries Greater HOU
Kids Against Hunger
Kids' Meals
Living Waters for the World
Lord of the Streets
Mo Ranch
Montreat
Pan American School
Plant it Forward
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Project Cure
Seafarers
St. Philip Day School
St. Philip Stitchers
United Campus Ministries

Kids Against Hunger®
PACKING SESSIONS



THE NEXT PACKING SESSION IS:
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9
9:30-10:30 AM | DINING ROOM

SPOTS ARE LIMITED!
 EMAIL KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

**UPCOMING FINAL 2025
 PACKING SESSION:**
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23
AT 9:30-10:30 AM

ST. PHILIP DAY SCHOOL GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the congregation for your exceedingly generous gifts to outfit the school and playground. When ordering from our Amazon Wishlist, not all gifts came with gift tags that identified the giver.

We would like to acknowledge all of our donors, and we have been sending thank you notes to those whose names were identified on the Amazon labels. If you have not received a thank you note for your gift, please email Candice Harris at director@stphilipdayschool.org so that we may thank you and include you in end-of-year giving acknowledgments. For your purposes to complete your taxes, at the end of 2025 we will send out in-kind donation acknowledgements for items donated and cash and stock donations.

Grace and peace,
 Keatan



MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SEARCH

HOMELESS SERVICES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21
10:30 AM - 12 PM

SEARCH HOMELESS SERVICES OFFICE
2015 CONGRESS STREET | 77002

**HELP SERVE A MEAL,
 MINGLE WITH CLIENTS
 & PLAY BINGO!**
FOR HOMELESS CLIENTS

SIGN UP BY CALLING
MARY MCGUIRE
OR EMAIL: MSTXMAC@YAHOO.COM

SEARCH SCATTERED HOUSE HOUSING LUNCHEON

St. Philip will gather at the SEARCH office to provide the Friday meal for the clients of SEARCH. SEARCH, one of our mission partners for years, provides critical services for rehousing the homeless. The event will be at the current SEARCH building, 2015 Congress. Residents of scattered housing sites across the city and come together once a month to build connections with each other and their SEARCH case workers. St. Philip will provide a meal thanks to Chuck Johnson and his gracious support. We can always use a few more volunteers to help serve and mingle with clients. We will provide drinks, lunch supplies. We will be playing bingo and providing gift bags for all. Call Mary McGuire, 713-858-0552 and leave a message or email at mstxmac@yahoo.com to add your name and to get parking or carpooling instructions.

Christmas Shoeboxes



2025 SEASON

Every year, the Houston International Seafarers Center delivers between 8,000 and 11,000 shoeboxes filled with essential items, treats, and small gifts to the hardworking seafarers visiting the Port of Houston. Many of these men and women spend months at sea, far from home and family—especially during the holiday season.

These special shoeboxes are hand-delivered directly to ships by our Chaplains, ship visitors, and staff—sharing not just gifts, but kindness, gratitude, and holiday spirit.

The Mission Committee invites you to participate again this year in the 2025 International Seafarer's Christmas Shoebox program. St. Philip and Central Presbyterian churches have a long history of being a part of this ministry. We are so thankful for the generous support of everyone in years past. Because of your continued support, St. Philip has been able to contribute 125 packed boxes each year to deserving seafarers.

Bins for collected personal care and recreational items (NO SHOEBOXES, PLEASE) will be in the Gathering Area weekly. Requested items to fill the boxes are listed below. Look for details to come about the date for wrapping of the boxes.

PLEASE HELP THE SEAFARERS WITH THESE ITEMS

Personal Care Items

Band Aids (fabric)
Body Wash (liquid)
Dental Floss
Deodorant
Gold Bond Crème
Gold Bond Powder
Hair Combs
Hand Wipes
Lip Balm
Lotion
Nail Clippers
Q Tips
Shampoo/Conditioner
Shaving Cream
Tissues
Individually Wrapped Single
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste

Recreational Items

New Baseball Caps
Chewing Gum/Hard Candy
Earbuds/Headphones
Flashlights W/Batteries
Handkerchiefs
Key Chains
Magnets
Mechanical Pencils / Pens
Needle & Thread
Non-Perishable Snacks
Playing Cards
Pocket-sized Notebooks
Pocket Calendars
Socks
Texas Souvenirs
New T-Shirts
Word Searches/ Sudokus

2024 STATS

 **10,002**
SHOEBOXES DISTRIBUTED

 **412**
VESSELS GIFTED

 **51**
NATIONALITIES
REPRESENTED

 **164**
PARTICIATING ORGS
AND INDIVIDUAL
DONORS

 **THANK YOU**
FOR HELPING US CONTINUE
OUR MISSION SERVING
SEAFARERS



We no longer collect recycled
shoeboxes for this project.

EQUAL EXCHANGE & TARIFFS: A MISSION UNDER PRESSURE

You might have noticed at our Halloween pop-up sale on October 26 that we have had to raise the price of both regular and decaf coffee by \$1.00 each per bag. This is due to inflation and tariff disruptions. Tariffs hit Equal Exchange hard, since their business model rests on supporting small farmers across the world and enabling them, with our purchases, to create a sustainable life for themselves, their families, and their communities, all while caring for the earth by using cutting-edge organic farming practices.



Equal Exchange, our co-op partner through the Presbyterian Coffee Project, is sponsoring a live Zoom event this Thursday, **November 6**, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CT, to explain how tariff policy is affecting their trade relationships, and the implications for all independent businesses.

Register to attend at <https://tinyurl.com/57xx679x>.

Here is some additional information:

- ◆ As a small, mission-driven business sourcing from farmer cooperatives and paying above-market prices, Equal Exchange is feeling the strain of the Trump Administration's new tariffs. With most of our products imported—like tea from India (50% tariff), chocolate from Switzerland (39%), and bananas from Ecuador and Peru (10–15%)—the fiscal impact is significant.
- ◆ While we typically share financial updates, this year we're also telling the story of how tariffs threaten our model, which prioritizes fair pay and community investment while running on modest profits.
- ◆ In this session, we'll break down how tariffs work, their impact on our business and trade relationships, and the broader consequences for independent companies. We'll also explore global trade shifts and who benefits—or suffers—from these policies.
- ◆ Join us for a presentation and conversation to learn more and engage in building a more democratic trade system.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women.

Thursday Evening Circle—Nov. 6

meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Dining Room. Megan Sankowski - megansankowski@hotmail.com

Monday Morning Saints—Nov. 10

meets 2nd Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room - Tricia Tolbert phtolbert@gmail.com

The Hallmark Circle—Nov. 13

meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. text Sue Shirley-Howard 713-683-8139 for more information.

Sunday Circle—TBD

meets 3rd Sunday of each month after worship in the Dining Room. Jan Meyer jsmeyer9990@gmail.com

One More Chance Study for Everyone—Nov. 24

Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Library. Lee Ardell leeardell@gmail.com

Save the Date
All Circle Christmas Luncheon
December 21

MEOW!! RUFF!! MEOW!! RUFF!!

IT IS ALL ABOUT THE LOVE!!

Thank you so much for helping seniors keep their beloved fur babies. We donated 670 pounds of dog and cat kibble, 12 pounds of wet food and 6 pounds of treats to Interfaith Ministries' AniMeals program. Both our vulnerable seniors and their sweet companions will sleep with full bellies tonight. They are so thankful.

Thank you!
The Mission
Committee



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 that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—Room 103—Godly Play utilizes storytelling of Scripture and spiritual experience as we watch, listen, wonder, and respond together. We value the process, we are open to discovery with the child, and one of our goals is to build community as we work alongside one another week by week.

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-5—Room 205—This Fall the children will explore the FollowMe discipleship practices curriculum from the PCUSA.

YOUTH—Grades 6-12 meet in the Dining Room, watch the calendar for announcements about Kids Against Hunger packing sessions. Join us on **November 9** at 9:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM - we will study Ecclesiastes, the final book in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us as we seek to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to all of God's people from Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201—9:30-10:40 a.m.—**November 9**—Presentation on Christian Nationalism by Sara Jean Jackson. **November 16**—Program on Americans United for separation of Church and State presented by Omar Rouchon. **November 23**—Justin Langham on Music for Advent. **November 30**—Presentation by Rabbi Steven Morgen entitled "It Takes Two to Relevate: A Modern Jewish Approach to Understanding the Prophets." If you would like the Zoom link for the classes, email: jshartman01@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—We will have Children's Chapel the second and fourth Sundays after *Conversation with Children*. 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.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets for an hour once a month on Zoom to read and discuss social justice issues of concern in today's world. Our current topic is Christian Nationalism, one definition of which is "that America is God's chosen nation and should be defended and governed as such." Attitudes already influencing our legislators include opposition to gay rights, opposition to gun safety efforts, promotion of Christian religion in schools and libraries, book bans, etc. Our current study book is Brian Kaylor's *Baptizing America; how mainline Protestants helped build Christian Nationalism*. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson sjj10223@gmail.com.

LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—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. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome to join us as we look at the lectionary passages for the coming Sunday! To get on the list for the Zoom link, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. We will discuss "*The Frozen River*" by Ariel Lawhon at the next meeting on **November 13** at 7:00 p.m. Please watch your email for details about location. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

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 in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 a.m. We are wrapping up studying "*The Tears of Things*" by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.



December Birthdays

Name	Day
Julia Irick	1
Julie Itz	1
Tyler Lippincott	3
Virginia McMaster	5
Jared Ewing	6
Micah Goodman	6
Jean Stanley	6
Jim Lomax	7
Carol Stelling	7
Larry Wright	8
Doris Cantrell	9
Pam Keever	12
Margaret King	13
John Van Osdall	13
Orlean Anderson	14
Nicholas Arlinghaus	14
Paloma Frautschi	14
Gary Miller	15
Celia Perez-Boston	15
Bill Taylor	16
William Baker	18
Judy Hill	18
Gwendolyn Ewing	19
Ellis Newport	19
Peter Schneider	25
Katherine Boone	27
Daniel Cleveland	28
Jay Attar	29
David Lindsay	29
Vicki McKay	29
Meghan Sankowski	29
Shiloh Brewer	30
Don Padgett	30
Judye Hartman	31

Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee
You're Invited December 7
to Monthly Meeting
Immediately after worship in Room 205
Join us as we reflect and celebrate 2025
and as we go forth boldly into 2026
No need to let us know you're coming, just show up!
Denise Wilborn, P&SJ moderator
dwilborn55@gmail.com

LITERACY AND DEMOCRACY

In an interview with Thomas Newkirk (2023) Sondra Perl states:

Every voice in the room needs to be heard - whether it's a word, a line, a paragraph, an entire piece. It's bringing people's voices into the room, respecting those voices. It's listening to them openly, creating a dialogue among the ideas that populate the room. The job of the teacher is to listen really well. That's democracy at work.

In her recently released book, *Why Fascists Fear Teacher*, Randi Weingarten (2025) states:

Teachers fight for a better future for all - the common good. That is the core of public education - that everyone is embraced and accepted. Teachers and parents and community leaders and faith leaders who fight for better public schools, stronger democracy, and greater opportunity are fighting to make the nation better for everyone - including even the people attacking us. Because we truly all do better when we all do better.

Yet, in today's climate teachers are being intimidated, reassigned, and often terminated for showing up each day to serve as channels to better futures for all to the very best of their abilities. There is not time in the standardized test driven school calendar allowed for reading a whole novel. Imagine being asked to share what message you, the reader, got from *To Kill a Mockingbird* from a three paragraph excerpt. Books sit collecting dust, if they are even still on the shelves, in libraries without certified librarians.

Why?

Again, Weingarten (2025) states, "Yes, we teach reading and math. But we also teach young people to have confidence, to problem solve and be resilient. We also teach core American values..."

Please join us on Sunday, November 30 immediately after worship when the Peacemaking and Social Justice committee welcomes Dorcas Hand [<http://www.strongschoolibraries.com/>] as we explore together the relationship of literacy and democracy, and why books are so essential to forming and strengthening that relationship. Dorcas is co-chair of Students Need Libraries (SNL) [<https://www.studentsneedlibrariesinhisd.org/>]. As a retired librarian she now serves as an active advocate for students' access to school libraries across Houston ISD. She is a frequent speaker at HISD school board meetings.

No need to let us know you're coming - just show up! We'll have light bites, a book exchange, and a book mark craft.

Denise Wilborn, Moderator of P&SJ

Newkirk, T. (2023). *Literacy's democratic roots*. Heinemann.

Weingarten, R. (2025). *Why fascists fear teachers*. Thesis.

The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee
Invites You to

Literacy AND Democracy

Sunday, November 30

Dorcas Hand

Co-chair of Students Need Libraries

Immediately following Worship

Light Bites

Book Exchange

Book Mark Craft

Watch Sunday bulletins, St. Philip emails,
and P&SJ Information Table for location

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Pam Taylor; Kay Cash; Deb Burks; Sondra Sullivan; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Wilma Grether—mother of Kurt Grether; Raquel Calhoun & family - sister-in-law of Pam Kever; Kathy Bailey and family—sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith—cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes—daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians—Ann Swanson- friend of Deborah Unruh; Kitty Manson and family; Sidney Roach, Lori Childers O'Connell, Joyce Freudenberg— friends of Stephen Paine; Chris Deflandre—friend of Cara Biddle; Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood—friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende—friend of Beth Atkinson; Carter Lindley, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Mary Watters and Mindy Cooper-Smith – friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett - friends of Robin and Gary Willis; 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/>) or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:
Tuesday, December 2—Deadline November 26—3:00 p.m.

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



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