



**ST. PHILIP**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 17, 2024

Volume 68, Issue 22

# PHILIP-EYE

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

**Rev. Dr. 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

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**4:30 PM**  
*A Whimsical Telling*  
OF THE **BIRTH OF JESUS**

**7:00 PM**  
*Communion Service*  
WITH THE **ST. PHILIP CHOIR**

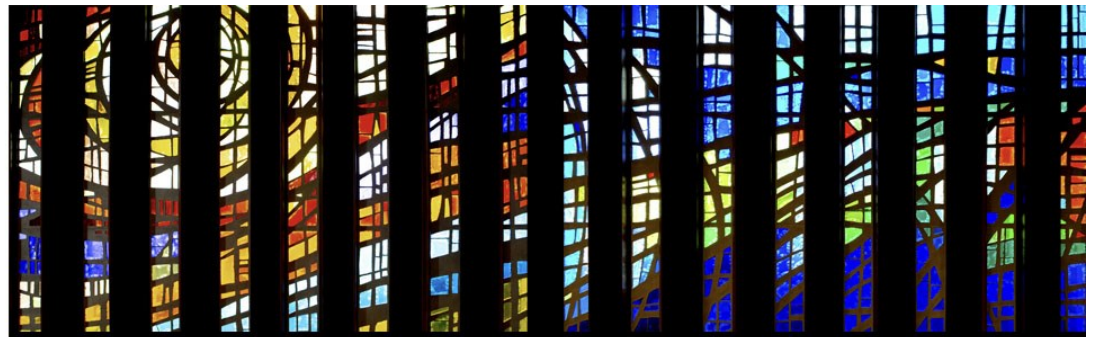
## *Merry Christmas*

*Thank you to those who have contributed poinsettias this Christmas to adorn our chancel.  
The list is continued on the next page.*

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we remember:</i>
Sally S. Alcorn	Fred C. Alcorn
Sally S. Alcorn	Cecile & Carl Stuebing
Bob & Lee Ardell	Our parents
Selena Brinegar	Julissa Claire Howe
Selena Brinegar	Uncle, Doug Pickens
Selena Brinegar	Grandparents, Helen & Clyde Pickens, Gene Martin
Pete & Florence Bunch	JoEllen, Gene, & Dorothy
Kate Burkart	Susan Estill
David & Nancy Castro	Our parents, Elwood & Nancy Vogt
David & Nancy Castro	Our parents, Rev. Vincent and Margaret Castro
Jane Cooper	Lillian Bantau
Jane Cooper	Dan Cooper
Jane Cooper	Katy Mason
Liz Crowell	My mother, Fannie Scott Tapper
Elizabeth Duerr	Susan Estill
Elizabeth Duerr	Sue & Bill Baier
Janet & Carl Eskridge	John & Rita Hannah
David & Joyce Fox	Jack Fox
David & Joyce Fox	Dan Flowers
Teri & Tom Hall	Capt. & Mrs. William A Racette (Teri's parents)
Teri & Tom Hall	Mr. & Mrs. William Barnes Hall (Tom's parents)
Jane Lee	Bill Lee
Jane Lee	Mary Bratton & Susan Estill
Jim & Susan Leonard	Beedie & Stanley Heaps
Jim & Susan Leonard	James Henry Leonard V
Jim & Susan Leonard	Doris Leach Leonard
Jim & Susan Leonard	James Henry Leonard Jr.
Jim and Nancy Lomax	Delores & J.W. Lomax
Jane Malczewskyj	Loved Ones
Celie Matteson	Parents: Pete & Gussie Heilbron
Jan Meyer	My Parents, Don & Valerie Meyer
Dale Miller	Barger Miller
Dale Miller	Louise Porter
Barbara Runge	Rusty Howard
Barbara Runge	Eugene & Ruth Howard
Barbara Runge	Glen & Affie Tate
Barbara Runge	Bill & Martha Runge
Barbara Runge	Trudy Cleveland
Barbara Runge	Velma Guy Tolbert
David & Hallie Spence	Paxton Williams
Karen St. Laurent	Susan Estill
Julie Wangler	Thomas Wangler
Hope Wilmarth	Lance Wilmarth
Ruena Wood	My husband, Dr. Rev. Stuart Wood, & his past years of ministry to God's glory
John Wurster & Deb Burks	Darnall Burks

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we honor:</i>
Linda Bevill	The members of the Stewardship Committee
Bob & Bebe Burns	The St. Philip Staff
Tom & Barbara Cavanaugh	Our family
David & Sherri Dees	The birth of Willa Leaone Dees
Elizabeth Duerr	The music staff, singers, ringers, and instrumentalists
Elizabeth Duerr	The pastoral staff
McNair Johnson	Sunday school teachers & youth group leaders
Suzanne & David Kerr	Our 3 fine pastors
Walter & Margaret King	Our wonderful St. Philip staff members
Mary McGuire	Angelina Fonseca-Grewal for leadership this past year on the Mission Committee
Bonnie & Greg Moore	Our children, Zach, Clint, & Audra
Bonnie & Greg Moore	Our Grandchildren, Sebastian, & #2 in June
Glenna Scott	Wendell & Mary Scott
David & Hallie Spence	Mary Linda Williams
Hope Wilmarth	Our grandchildren: Isabelle, Jeb, Arden, Gertrude, Clara and Elliot
Anne & Butch Wilson	Angelina Fonseca-Grewal for leadership this past year on the Mission
John Wurster & Deb Burks	Marilyn & Sarah Burks

*Duerr  
Lecture  
Series*



**NEXT YEAR 2025**

Mark your calendars for next year's event



**Dr. Brian K. Blount**

President Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA  
Scholar, Author, Pastor

Speaker for the 28th Annual Duerr Lecture Series,  
**February 23, 24, and 25, 2025**

#### **CAT SEEKING A NEW HOME**

Brady, a ten-year-old gray Persian, is seeking a new home. He is not a lap cat, but he is very gentle and affectionate and loves to be brushed with his special brush. He does have some health issue, including some clumps in his fur and some digestive problems that require a prescription pet food. If you or someone you know is seeking to adopt a new furry friend, contact Julie Estill at 832-541-1157.



## ST. PHILIP DAY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Have you noticed the construction fence just outside the Education Building? The playground for the St. Philip Day School is underway! AllPlay, Inc., the vendor for our playground has begun site preparation. Weather permitting, our playground should be completed by the end of December. Look for a dedication/blessing some time in January.



## CHOCOLATE MINIS FLASH SALE!

Fairly-traded milk or dark chocolate Minis are still available in small festive gift bags, \$4 for a bag of 12. Stop by the Gathering Area on **Dec. 22**, before and after worship, for the perfect “little something” for a teacher, mail carrier, delivery driver, co-worker, or neighbor!



**SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 22** at 1:15 PM, anyone filled with Christmas cheer is invited to attend a screening of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at Rooftop Cinema across the street on top of Whole Foods. You can purchase tickets (first come, first serve) online at <https://rooftopcinemaclub.com/houston/venue/uptown/>

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! You can see from the Niazay's note below how much it meant to have you so generously contribute to their little one to come. Friends from St. P, friends from Webster PC and wonderful friends, thank you. I placed a few pictures in The Gathering Place so you can hopefully get a sense of the happiness felt by this sweet family.

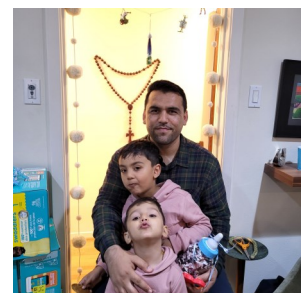
*Peace and Love, Tina Bryan*

*Dear Church Family,*

*We are deeply grateful for your love and support during our son's baby shower. To those who attended and those who couldn't make it but sent their warm wishes and generous gifts, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your presence whether in person or in spirit made the day incredibly special for us.*

*We feel truly blessed to be part of such a caring and thoughtful community. Your kindness and generosity means the world to us and have brought so much joy to our family.*

*With heartfelt thanks and appreciation,  
The Niazay Family*



## 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 START AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

**GODLY PLAY**—Ages 3—Kindergarten—ROOM 103

**Children:** Grades 1-4—Room 105—From the Manger—Olga Piskor & Jon Martin. Hunger is a universal human experience, so it's no wonder that the story of Jesus—the one who came to feed the hungry—begins, ends, and centers around food. We will see how the baby born in a bread town continues to feed a hungry world today. Matching Advent calendars available for children, families, and anyone else who wants them.

**YOUTH**—Grades 5-12—DINING ROOM—On recess until January.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**—ROOM 204—We are studying of Proverbs in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM 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.

**CHURCH & SOCIETY**—ROOM 201—Join us from **9:30 AM—10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Dec. 22** - Spiritual Pilgrimage for Racial Justice and the Montreat Youth Conference 2024 "Planting Peace" St. Philip youth and their friends, with Rev. Keatan King and Rev. Omar Rouchon, tell the story of their summer trip to the Montreat Youth Conference and their visits to sites of the Civil Rights Movement, to see first-hand how people of faith were, and are, an active force for social justice. The civil rights sites included a visit to the barn in which 14 year-old Emmett Till was abducted and lynched in Drew, Mississippi in 1955. **Dec. 29** - Kate Burkart's Family Film Study - The Boy and the Heron - More than just a movie, *The Boy and the Heron* is a beautiful reminder to cherish the connections we have and to see the wonder in the world around us. As *The New York Times* says, "*The Boy and the Heron* has few straightforward lessons to teach. Mahito learns he cannot save the world single-handedly and shouldn't try. Love and art, balanced together, are how a person can manage to exist without malice or fear." Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: [churchsociety\\_stphilip@comcast.net](mailto:churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net).

**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 when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to participate in this during the worship service.

## ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP**—This group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 PM to read and discuss our faith responses to social justice issues. The current study book is Barbara McQuade's *Attack from Within: how disinformation is sabotaging America*. Join us! Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at:

[sjj10223@gmail.com](mailto: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 King at:

[keatan@saintphilip.net](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net).

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**— **Wednesday Bible Study with John Wurster is on recess until Jan. 8, 2025.** Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly at 9:30 AM, 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 get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: [john@saintphilip.net](mailto:john@saintphilip.net).

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Jan. 9** at 7:00 PM. We will discuss *The Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Brammer. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: [nnl@lambrightlaw.com](mailto:nnl@lambrightlaw.com).

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP**—**Men's Weekly Fellowship is on recess until Jan. 10, 2025.** 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 AM. We are learning from *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at:

[ggardne148@aol.com](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com).

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Nancy Everhart Johnson upon the death of her brother Douglas Everhart on December 8.*

*Walter Cochran and family upon the death of Elizabeth Cochran on December 7. A memorial service will be held on Friday, December 20 at 11:00 AM*

*Robert Estill and family upon the death of Susan Estill on November 26. A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 23 at 11:00 AM.*

*St. Philipians and their families*—Robin Willis; Dan Cleveland; Janet Davis; Dick Howard; Nancy E. Johnson; Jeremy Mattern; Carmen Stevenson; Nidhal Aldaraji, Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Karen Morris; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Raquel Calhoun-sister-in-law of Pam Keever; 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; 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. Philipians* – Pete & Gloria Benevides; Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte - friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; 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; Jackie Janacek, Bill Ward, Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; 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](mailto: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.

To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at [denise@saintphilip.net](mailto:denise@saintphilip.net) or Lorrie Castle at [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net).

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!

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:  
**Tuesday, January 7 - Deadline January 2—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](mailto:philipeye@saintphilip.net) or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT  
PRESBYTERIANS



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)