



April 6, 2021  
Volume 65, Issue 7

# PHILIP-EYE

## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS AT ST. PHILIP

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.*

--Psalm 24: 1

Bring your masks and fellowship! On **April 17** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. meet your friends at St. Philip for an outdoor walk-around event to celebrate Earth Day. A few of the activities include:

- **Electronics Recycling** - Clean the old technology out of your cabinets and closets. Bring it to St. Philip and let us recycle it for you with the City of Houston's E-Cycle service, which ensures the security and confidentiality of all of your electronic data and protects the environment. Acceptable items for recycling are listed at the bottom of this [web page](http://houstontx.gov/solidwaste/electronics): [houstontx.gov/solidwaste/electronics](http://houstontx.gov/solidwaste/electronics).
- **Equal Exchange** - Pick up your most recent Equal Exchange order.
- **Fun with Plants** - Pick up a plant or contribute a plant at our plant exchange. Plant a seed to take home.
- **Garden Blessing** - Join us at the St. Philip community garden at 12:30 for a blessing and music.
- **Be Plastic-Free** - Explore plastic-free alternatives to many household products. Take home a sample and some ideas.
- **Knowledge is Power** - Stop by the information exchange to learn about earth care, climate change, and St. Philip's Earth Care Team. Share your thoughts about St. Philip's Earth Care efforts.
- **Citizens Climate Lobby** - Talk with a representative of Citizens Climate Lobby about their current efforts in Texas and Washington.

In addition to this event, join the Church and Society class online at 9:30 a.m. on these Sundays for our month-long Earth Care series:

**April 11** - Kerri Crawford of the University of Houston on biodiversity loss.

**April 18** - Dahr Jamail, author of [The End of Ice](#), will discuss his book.

**April 25** - Dan Cohan of Rice University on air quality.

**May 2** - Hanadi Rifai of the Hurricane Resilience Research Institute on hurricane preparation and mitigation.

Email Mickey Meyers at [mmcgm63@gmail.com](mailto:mmcgm63@gmail.com) to get a zoom link for the class.

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

Rev. Keatan King  
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon  
Associate Pastor

Rev. Kallie Pitcock  
Pastoral Resident

Dr. Randall Swanson  
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst  
Organist

Cecy Duarte  
Children's Music Associate

Micah Meyers  
Art Director

Denise Ferrell  
Bookkeeper

Wilbert Parada  
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada  
Custodian

Lorrie Castle  
Office Manager  
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill  
Editor Emerita

# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 17

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.



St. Philip Mission Center / Presbytery of New Covenant

## WHO'S ZOOMING WHOM?

A few of the groups at St. Philip continue to meet during this time via Zoom and other video conference services—the session has had meetings, book club, church committees and Church and Society. We even have Sunday Coffee Hour. If you would like to participate in future meetings, please contact the appropriate group's leader.

**SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR**—Gather with fellow St. Philippians to talk about the sermons, hear about their week and what helped them get through the week. The Coffee Hour begins after the closing voluntary. Email Lorrie Castle at [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net) to be added to the list.

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Our next meeting is **April 8** at 7 p.m. when we will be discussing *Call Your Daughter Home* by Deb Spera. Contact Sarah O'Dell for Zoom link – [sarah.odell6@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.odell6@gmail.com).

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER**—A look at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday meets on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. Email John for details and to get on the list - [john@saintphilip.net](mailto:john@saintphilip.net)

**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 via Zoom at noon. Please contact Gary Gardner at [ggardne148@aol.com](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com) if you would like to join or know the current material they are discussing.

**CHURCH & SOCIETY—9:30 a.m. via Zoom - - April 11** - Biodiversity Loss - How biodiversity serves us by providing ecosystem services, the current state of biodiversity, and the causes of biodiversity loss - what we can do to help save species locally and globally. - Presented by Dr. Kerry Crawford - Assistant Professor of Biology & Biochemistry at the University of Houston - **April 18** - Book discussion led by John Hartman for The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption - Dahr Jamail takes us to the slopes of Mount Denali, to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, to the threatened Amazon rain forest, to the tundra of St. Paul Island, and beyond to present frightening evidence of the extent of climate disruption that has already changed our planet. Presented by the author Dahr Jamail - former war correspondent in Iraq, accomplished mountaineer, and recipient of awards of excellence in journalism, including Smithsonian magazine.

Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: [mmcgm63@gmail.com](mailto:mmcgm63@gmail.com).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE MEETINGS

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. The meetings are virtual, and a Zoom link is sent to all P.W. members of each circle. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate, so please email Lorrie to request the link: [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net).

*Monday Morning Saints*

Second Monday of each month—10:00 a.m.

*Sunday Circle*

3rd Sunday of each month—12:30 p.m.

*Thursday Evening Circle*

1st Thursday of each month—7:00 p.m.

## WORSHIP IN PERSON

As we continue to assess and monitor coronavirus data and the recommendations of local health leaders and then filter that information through our particular context at St. Philip, we are offering an outdoor worship service on Sunday as described below and an in-person midweek prayer service. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. The Going Forward task force will continue to review on a weekly basis.

### MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE

**Wednesdays at 11 a.m.** This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website. If you'd like to attend the midweek service in-person contact the church office. Contact Lorrie to sign up.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

We will offer outdoor worship opportunities on the church campus on a week-to-week basis. Worship services will begin at 9:00 am. Worshipers are asked to bring their own chairs or blankets. We will also have chairs available at the church for those who need them. Worshipers will be spaced on the lawn at appropriate distances. The lawn service will last about thirty minutes. Registration is required and will open the Monday before the service; link can be found in pastoral email updates or through MyStPhilip. If the event has reached capacity, the event sign-up closes.

Link for **April 11**—[click here](#).

If you have trouble with the registration or are not online, please call/text Lorrie Castle (832-262-1244). We will also have the usual 11:00 service that day, which will continue to be on-line only.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### January 2021

#### Called Session Meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing – January 17, 2021

- Session received into membership Elizabeth (Liz) D. Williams by reaffirmation of faith.
- Session elected Cathy Patterson, Dick Nunn, Peg Palisin, Bonnie Moore, and Judith Hiott to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the January 20, 2021 Specially Called Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.

#### Stated Session Meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing – January 26, 2021

- Minutes of the Congregational Meeting of December 20, 2020 were approved by the Session on behalf of the Congregation as circulated.
- Session approved the 2020 St. Philip Annual Statistical Report for submission to the Presbytery of New Covenant and to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of the General Assembly.
- Session elected Jan Meyer and Bonnie Moore to serve as at-large members of the Central Mission Endowment Council, and appointed Butch Wilson to serve as the Session representative.
- Session authorized Treasurer Ada Fuller to take all appropriate action to request forgiveness of the \$124,000 Payroll Protection Plan loan.
- Session approved the 2021 St. Philip Budget of \$1,670,400.00, as proposed by the Budget Council.
- Session approved Kids Meals as the recipient of the March 2021 first-Sunday communion offerings.
- Session invited Dr. Samuel L. Adams to preach on Sunday, February 21st at the 11:00 a.m. service as part of the Duerr Lecture Series, and that the sermon be recorded in his home-town for inclusion in the service.
- Session called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation via Zoom teleconferencing to be held on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at noon following the morning worship service.

### February 2021

The February 16, 2021 Stated Session Meeting was cancelled because of the impacts of Winter Storm Uri.

### March 2021

#### Stated Session Meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing – March 16, 2021

- Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 14, 2021 were approved on behalf of the Congregation.
- Session approved \$104,400 in mission spending from the St. Philip annual budget to 27 particular organizations for 2021.
- Session approved the recipients of communion offerings for April-December of 2021.
- Session elected Gary Gardner, Ruthie Waldrop, Kate Burkart, and Judy Hartman to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the March 20, 2021 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant via Zoom teleconferencing.

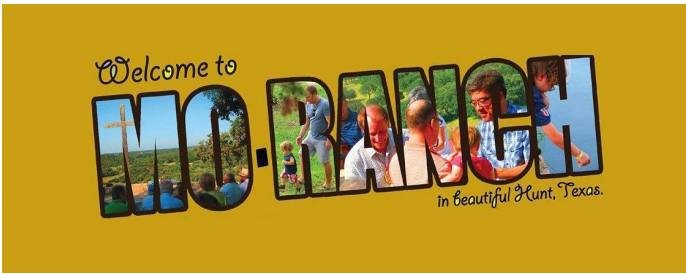
#### Committee and Council Actions:

- Mission Committee has confirmed that \$4,000 of the total of \$112,400 allocated by the Session for Mission will be reserved for Mission Committee activities in 2021.
- Mission Committee has set aside an additional \$4,000 until further information is received from two applicants.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session





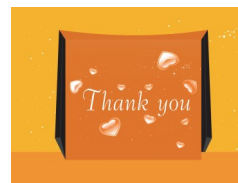
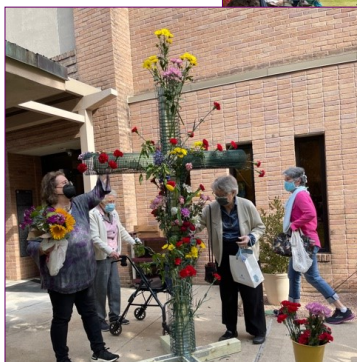
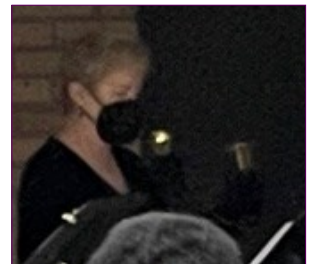
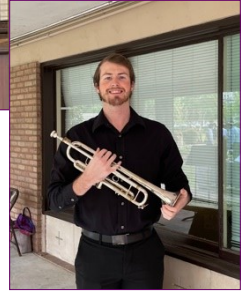
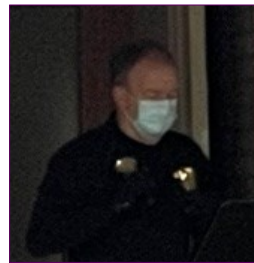
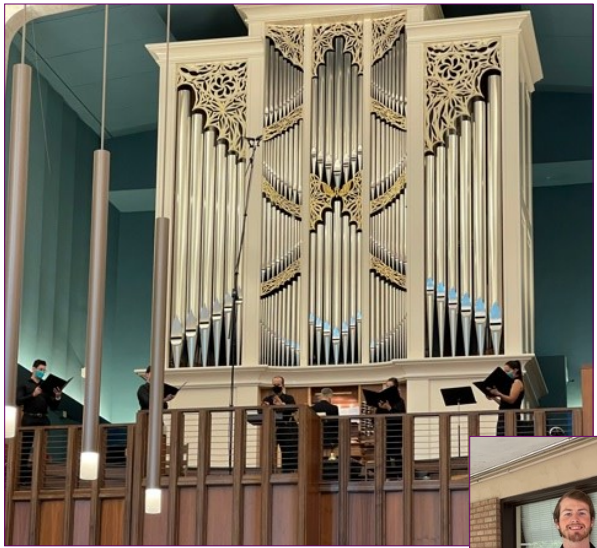


## SAVE THE DATE: ST PHILIP AT MO-RANCH 2022

Though the pandemic continues to constrain our activities in 2021, St Philip is looking forward to a special event for 2022! Mark your calendars and join us as we begin to make plans for a St Philip retreat at Mo-Ranch from 2-5 June 2022. For more than 40 years, this congregation has enjoyed a long weekend in early June, relaxing, playing and worshipping in the Texas Hill Country. If you've never come with us before, please consider joining us in June 2022—and if you are a retreat regular, make plans now to resume this happy habit!

Mo-Ranch is a Presbyterian institution and a treasured mission partner of this congregation, providing camps and conferences for all ages and hotel-style accommodations for families and individuals in a place of outstanding beauty.

While we cannot go there together in 2021, Mo-Ranch is receiving guests this summer. If your travels might take you that way, you can inquire about room reservations at the Ranch by contacting Blanca Barrera at [blancab@moranch.com](mailto:blancab@moranch.com).



Our March communion offering supported Kids' Meal with a gift of \$525.00. Since the onset of COVID-19, and now in the wake of the recent freeze, Kids' Meals is feeding record numbers of hungry preschool-aged children in our community who do not have access to free school lunch programs. With the faithful support of our volunteers, donors and community partners, Kids' Meals has delivered more than 8 million free healthy meals over the last 14 years and aims to deliver 1.45 million meals in 2021. Along with meals and hope, Kids' Meals also delivers weekly grocery bags and essential information on wrap-around social services to help families break the vicious cycle of poverty. In addition, our **Kids Against Hunger** program at St. Philip has in the past and will again pack meals that supply much-needed food to Kids Meals families.

## *Happy Easter*

*Thank you to those who have contributed lilies to adorn our chancel.*

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>In our memories...</i>
Betsy & Dan Boston	Betsy's brother Tom
David & Lorrie Castle	Sue Castle, David's mother
Sharon Coufal	My husband, Alan Coufal & my father-in-law, Edward R. Coufal
Liz & Steve Crowell	Dona Willemson
Dan & Janet Davis	Alice Pennington
Elizabeth Duerr	Penny Vieau
Carl & Janet Eskridge	John & Rita Hannah
Ruth & Linda Ewing	Alice & Paul Pennington
Lane Fletcher	Keith Fletcher
Joyce Fugit	Lonnie Fugit
Velma Guy Tolbert	Leslie M. "Jack" Tolbert
John & Judy Hartman	Christine Van Osdall
John & Judy Hartman	Kenneth Anderson
Nancy Higgs	My father & mother, Claude & Dorothy McMillan
Nancy Higgs	My brother, Bob McMillan
Jo Helland	Penny Vieau & Ellen Red
Jo Helland	John & Rita Hannah
Jo Helland	Lance Wilmarth
Jane Malczewskyj	Nikolaus Malczewskyj
Connie Mayfield	Ralph Mayfield
Connie Mayfield	Mariglyn Meacham
Jan Meyer	My parents, Don & Valerie Meyer
Jan Meyer	June, Charles, and Steve Nesbit
Dale Miller	Barger Miller
Dale Miller	Louise Porter
Cathy Patterson, David & Charlie Wood	Charles Duane Patterson
Barbara Runge	My husband, Rusty Howard
Barbara Runge	Gene & Ruth Howard
Barbara Runge	Glen & Affie Tate
Barbara Runge & Shirley Stubblefield	Nita Davis
Cynthia Shoup	My sister, Carolyn Jones
Ruthie & Al Waldrop	Alice & Paul Pennington
Ruthie & Al Waldrop	Penny & Lamar Vieau
Hope Wilmarth	Lance Wilmarth
Jerri Workman	Walter Workman

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we honor...</i>
Anonymous	John Wurster and Deb Burks who have worked tirelessly to live-stream services 7 days a week since March 2020.
Bob & Lee Ardell	Our parents
Linda Bevill	Essential Workers
Deb Burks & John Wurster	St. Philip Musicians
Dick & Sue Howard	Our family at St. Philip Presbyterian Church
Connie Mayfield	Charlotte Mayfield, my newest granddaughter
Bonnie Moore	The incredible St. Philip Staff and their testament of love and faith for all of us!
Douglass & Jenilee Simmons	With thanks & in honor of all our church staff
John & Gay Van Osdall	Our devoted, creative staff
Hope Wilmarth	My grandchildren - Isabelle, Jeb, Arden, Gertrude, Clara, & Elliot



## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Nancy Higgs and family upon the death of her mother Dorothy McMillan who died on March 29.*

*The family of Penny Vieau who died on March 24.*

*St. Philippians and their families*—Brian Webster; Shirley Coffman; Travis Calhoun; Kay Cash; Mary Margaret Hansen; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Mezgebe Gebray; Warren & Gretchen Cash— brother and sister-in-law of Kay Cash; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; Dixie Hahn—sister of Mary Sinderson; Brad Davis—nephew of Sam Fisher; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; Betty Grant—sister-in-law of Eleanor Grant; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher—sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Bessie Johnson—mother of Pat Lindsay; 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*—Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; Mary Sinderson; George and Lorraine Scott; and Jody Tomforde.

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Judith Tomaino—friend of Curt and Sharon Webb; Jack Burrell—friend of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Bill McDonald and Jackson Tavel—friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; David Shebay—friend of Greg Han; Clayton Amacker—friends 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 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: April 20; Deadline [April 15—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.



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

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