

May 19, 2020
Volume 64, Issue 10

PHILIP-EYE

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

The church nurtures those baptized as children and calls them to make public their personal profession of faith and their acceptance of responsibility in the life of the church. Currently we have a group of students who have been partnered with an adult mentor and who have been participating in classes each Sunday, learning about Presbyterian faith and their place in the church. As you learned in the St. Philip email update from Keatan, the class has transitioned to Zoom. It was planned that on May 31 after interviews with our session, these students would be confirmed and received into membership of the church; those plans are on hold. We would like to introduce you to each of them.



THOMAS KIMBRO, a ninth grader at High School of Performing and Visual Arts in the fall 2020, participates in theatre and baseball. In his free time he enjoys music, video games and athletics. Much like many St. Philippians who give back to their community, Thomas chooses to volunteer at the Houston Food Bank. Through the confirmation class he has learned a lot about the big questions that exist in religion and he has learned that there's not always an answer for those questions. His adult mentor is Nathan Carlin who has helped Thomas understand concepts and look at things in a different way. Thomas is very excited to contribute to the congregation in the future!

Nate Carlin said this about Thomas, "Several years ago, Keatan asked me if I would be willing to mentor Thomas if he decided to go through confirmation class. She rightly saw that Thomas has an inquisitive mind, and that I would enjoy his questions and thoughts. Thomas is fun to talk with, and to listen to--he is interesting, engaging, and thoughtful. I look forward to watching his journey with faith unfold!"

His parents, Rob and Rachel comment "We are so proud of Thomas for really engaging with the confirmation process with integrity and focus. He has always been interested in the "big questions" and it's been great for him to have this group to help him grapple with them. We are grateful to Keatan for her leadership and Nate for his mentoring of Thomas!"

ROWAN MURPHY, an eighth grader at Meyerland M.S., enjoys art and playing video games when she is not in school. She has participated in Conclaves at Cho-Yeh, youth lock-ins, and Mo-Ranch. Rowan has volunteered at the Houston Food Bank, Meals on Wheels and been active in Scouts BSA. Through confirmation classes she has learned that everyone has questions and her mentor Rhonda Sands has helped her take a better look into her own questions.

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
Art Director

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita



“I have enjoyed getting to know Rowan through this process. Rowan is very thoughtful and is not afraid to ask big questions about God. I look forward to watching her grow in her faith as she continues on her life’s journey” said Rhonda Sands.

Molly Boren said about her confirmand, **CAROLINE VESTAL** “I have seen Caroline in the sanctuary as she grew older and taller, but now as her mentor I have come to know her as a lovely, delightful girl, full of curiosity, intelligence, and a firm faith in God. Being her mentor has been a blessing for me.”

Caroline is an eighth grader at Pin Oak Middle School where she participates in advanced theatre class, *Company* dance team and the National Charity League (NLC). She enjoys working out/stretching, reading, watching TV, baking and hanging out (well, Facetime) with friends. With regards to COVID-19 Caroline says “my family, friends, and teachers have helped me get through all the changes due to Covid-19. It has changed the way our confirmation is running because now we are meeting in Zoom calls. Although it is not as interactive as it used to be, I think it is still fun, and I am very glad we still get to meet every Sunday and continue our classes.”



Confirmation class has grown Caroline’s faith, enabling her learn a lot more about Christianity, and feels as if she has gotten closer to God each time they learn about Him in class. Molly Boren has really helped her in understanding her own faith and has been so kind and loving. “I am very grateful that I got her as my mentor and I really think she has helped guide me along the way” said Caroline.

Caroline was the second person to teach one of the lessons, and she learned a lot of things including time management, organization, and how to teach/ lead a class. She had never really done anything like that before, so it was a very positive experience that she took a lot away from. “Lastly, I also got a lot more comfortable speaking by myself in front of others. Before I would get a little bit nervous to share my thoughts about the questions, but this really helped me feel a lot more comfortable.”

Her parents say “Caroline has enjoyed exploring her faith during the confirmation journey this spring, and has worked very hard alongside her amazing mentor. The confirmation journey has helped her learn more about the church and faith and strengthened her bonds within the church community,” Their twin daughter Lucy is also in the confirmation class, “Lucy has deepened her connection with the Saint Philip community during her confirmation journey and has strongly enriched her knowledge of the Presbyterian faith. Having

such a strong mentor has enabled her to feel confident exploring the Bible and asking questions of her faith.”

LUCY VESTAL has learned from confirmation class more about the Presbyterian church and she feels more “enlightened” and more involved in St. Philip as she has grown her faith. “I think Keatan and my mentor, Angela, have definitely helped me get through these strange times. Keatan has made it really easy to stay organized by sending emails, and reminders, and even resources to help me teach my class. Angela has been calling me and texting me, and also sending me resources that can help me with my lesson, and grow my faith” from Lucy. She also said that Angela taught her about finding stories in the Bible, for which she is so grateful to have a mentor. “It allows me to focus on my strengths and what I can learn from my actions, because they help guide me and show me where to look. In preparing my lesson, I have learned to, teach a lesson, but I have learned more about my faith, and God, because I have been asking so many questions and looking for the answers. I have learned more about God’s glory, and how everybody should reflect that. I am really grateful that I got to, not only be in confirmation, but to have such a good class with such kind, motivated, and driven people.”



“Lucy Vestal is very bright and incredibly insightful. She is grappling with some real, honest questions about faith. I most admire her tenacity to take on the big questions, and find myself learning a lot from Lucy while she unpacks her wonderings and articulates her thoughts. It has been a privilege to learn alongside her this spring.” Angela Fulcher



TRISHA YOUNG “has actively engaged Confirmation with humor, intelligence, discernment and enthusiasm. God has bestowed upon her an abundance of gifts that are a blessing to our St. Philip community. I have grown in my faith and been encouraged through partnering with her through this journey.” Selena Brinegar

Trisha Young will be a freshman in the fall at Carnegie Vanguard. She does student council and theatre and is very excited to be auditioning for the Humphries School of Musical Theatre (TUTS) this summer. Her favorite pastime is to watch some form of entertainment, usually a form of drag because of the artistic expression. Trisha has made it to the annual Conclaves and Mo Ranch retreats every year and looks forward to participating in a mission trip in the future. She wants to study theatre in New York for college. “Being in confirmation has really helped me understand my faith in a really eye opening way. I have had my friends and family to help me get through this. We have been doing classes on

zoom for confirmation right now. I think that SPPC is going to have a bigger online presence because of this pandemic. I think that we will see recordings of the service posted to the website for those unable to attend.” Trisha’s confirmation journey has definitely been helped by having my her mentor Selena. While preparing for lessons she has learned about how the church has evolved over time in its different branches. It has gone from a very political thing to more of a spiritual thing.

THE PCUSA PENTECOST OFFERING

We celebrate Pentecost this year on May 31. Our communion offering will go to the PCUSA’s Pentecost Offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people and also address the needs of at-risk children. With this offering, we nurture the faith of those who are the church to come—children, youth, and young adults. 60% of the offering goes to PCUSA, where it supports things like the Youth Triennium, youth and young adult ministries, and programs for at-risk kids. Congregations may retain 40% of the offering to support programs for young people in their communities. This year, St. Philip’s 40% will go to CCSC’s Back-to-School Program, which provides school supplies to over 6,000 low-income children (pre-K through high school) in Houston-area schools.

You can learn more about PCUSA’s Pentecost Offering here: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost/>

You can learn more about CCSC’s Back to School program here: <https://www.ccschouston.org/backtoschool/>

Contributions to the communion offering can be made online through the church website, or checks can be sent to the church office, with Communion or Pentecost Offering in the memo line.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

As many of you know, the Stewardship and Welcome & Membership committees have organized and project to keep in touch with members during the quarantine by making phone calls to all St. Philip families. The need is for 10-15 volunteers interested who would continue making calls through the summer. Volunteers will be assigned five members to call. It is a fun way to meet and stay in contact with St. Philip friends. If you are interested in volunteering to make calls, please contact

Judye Hartman 832-563-7244 judyehart@gmail.com
 Judith Hiott 832-277-8676 judith.hiott@outlook.com
 Peg Palisin 713-410-3245 mpalisin@aol.com

Dear St Philip Families,

In place of our normal Summer VBS program, we invite you to join in mission with Kids Meals, a local non-profit delivering meals to pre-school age children who are at a critical developmental stage. Meals are also provided for their siblings while school is not open.

One in four Houston children live with food insecurity. Kids Meals, an SPPC mission partner, delivered over **1 million meals** in 2019 to help meet this need. The need is even greater during the current pandemic. An informative video can be seen at <https://kidsmealsinc.org/the-problem/>.

SPPC children and youth are encouraged to decorate bags and to fill with a shelf-stable drink, 1 protein and 1 snack (for suggestions click [here](#)). Sandwiches will be added by volunteers at Kids Meals. **Filled bags can be delivered to the church on Saturday, May 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

We ask that you do not send products requiring refrigeration; we will not be able to keep bags chilled before their delivery to Kids Meals on Monday morning.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Betsy Boston (ehbluzerne@aol.com),
 Omar Rouchon (omar@saintphilip.net),
 or Vanessa Nenna (vrmittchell@gmail.com).

We look forward to joining with you in this opportunity of families supporting families.

With gratitude,

St. Philip Education Committee



ST. PHILIP COVID UPDATE

Meeting this week, the Session affirmed that we will continue with our current “online only” operations until such time that the data and health officials indicate that resuming in-person worship services would be a responsible activity. A key metric in this evaluative process is a 14-day decline in the number of new cases of COVID19 locally. Meanwhile, we continue to think through procedures and acquire necessary supplies so that when it is appropriate, we can gather together physically in ways that correspond with good health practices. The work and witness of St. Philip continues to be vital in this time with strong participation in worship services, educational programs, and fellowship opportunities. In addition, we are staying engaged with mission partners, providing nearly \$200,000 of funding support. Further mission activities include sharing with CCSC produce from our community garden, distributing face coverings through Liberty High School, promoting a blood drive, and preparing lunches for Kids’ Meals. We are also extending financial support to members of the St. Philip community through our pandemic assistance fund. Those in need of support from this fund are encouraged to contact the pastors.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The congregation is being asked to submit nominations; the CNC will use June for a time of discernment; calls will be made in July, and a final slate will be presented to the congregation later this summer. Officer training will be held this fall. The new class of Elders will be installed in January of 2021.

We ask that the congregation wrap this process in prayer during this season of Lent and beyond. Take some time to pray over the names in the church directory. Who do you believe exhibits spiritual leadership to take St. Philip to the next step? Who has a contagious passion for God? Who might enlarge our vision, empower our members, and embrace a bit of risk? How about you?

We invite your nominations by completing the forms that can be found on the page and on our website. By providing us with more information than just a name strengthens your nomination and helps us in this most important process.

RULING ELDER

In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities for leading the congregation, those who undertake the ministry of Ruling Elder should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. As members of the Session, they are responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation and for oversight of all the programs and ministries of St. Philip.

DEACON

The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Currently serving as Deacons are *Beth Atkinson, Jane Cooper, David Fox, Joyce Fox, Ann Frautschi, Governor Frazier, Judith Hiott, Sue Shirley Howard, Mary McGuire, Gary Whitney.*

TRUSTEE

The duties of the trustees are to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property on behalf of the congregation; and to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the congregation.

Currently serving as Trustees are *Beth Atkinson, Tom Anderson, and Butch Wilson.*

CENTRAL MISSION ENDOWMENT COUNCIL

Members of the council decide the disbursements of the Central Mission Endowment Fund (CMEF). Persons servicing on the council should be interested in mission outreach with available time for site visits.

Currently serving on the council are *Deb Burks, Roderick James, Pat Lindsay, Chuck Seidel (Session Rep), and Sharon Webb.*

2020 Nominating Committee: *Kate Burkart, Jay Jeanes, Carla Burns, Tom Cavanaugh, Julia Fox and Nina Lambright*

In order to submit a candidate, it is requested that you provide the candidate's name and your name in case we have questions. Self-nominations are welcome. In making recommendations, please elaborate on personal qualities, involvement in our church, and why you consider this person a good candidate for church leadership. Forms can be found in this edition of the Philip-eye or online.

If you are recommending a Ruling Elder, please indicate the ministry area(s) they would best serve: Communication & Technology; Education; Finance; Mission; Peacemaking & Social Justice; Personnel; Property; Stewardship; Welcome & Membership; or Worship & Music.

Completed forms may be mailed to the Church Office or complete a form online at saintphilip.net. The deadline: June 8, 2020.

LEADER RECOMMENDATION FORM

In order to submit a candidate, it is requested that you provide the candidate's name and your name in case we have questions. Self-nominations are welcome. In making recommendations, please elaborate on personal qualities, involvement in our church, and why you consider this person a good candidate for church leadership. Please use a separate form for each recommendation.

USE ONE FORM PER NOMINATION

Candidate's Name: _____

Office: Ruling Elder Deacon Trustee CME Council

Comments:

If you are recommending a Ruling Elder, please circle the ministry area(s) they would best serve:

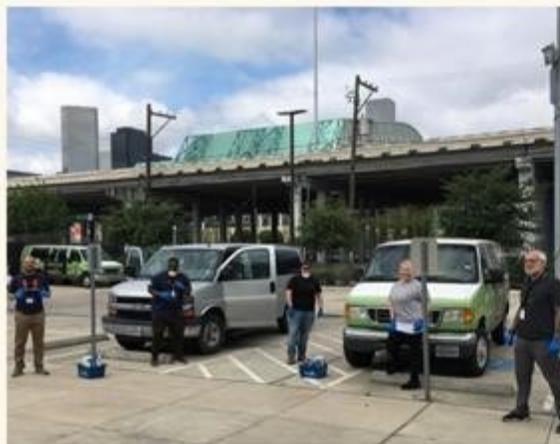
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|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Communication & Technology | Education | Finance | Mission |
| Peacemaking & Social Justice | Personnel | Property | |
| Stewardship | Welcome & Membership | Worship & Music | |

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

*Completed forms should be sent to the church office—SPPC, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056
Recommendations can also be submitted online at saintphilip.net. Deadline: June 8, 2020*



Serving the Homeless Community in the Midst of a Pandemic

Thao Costis - President & CEO
Alexis Loving - Vice President of Programs
Jonathan Danforth - Assoc. Program Manager
Phoebe Wong - Program Manager

Join SEARCH for a virtual
Speaker Series about our
community's progress as we
navigate unprecedented
challenges.

Thursday, May 21, 2020

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

For more information, please contact Chelsea
Wade at cwade@SEARCHhomeless.org or
713-374-3205

[REGISTER HERE](#)

WHO'S ZOOMING WHOM?

Some of the groups at St. Philip have been meeting 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 introduced a coffee hour this past Sunday. If you would like to participate in future meetings, please see below which group's leader you should contact.

Church & Society: May 24 - "Comfort Food for Your Media Diet: Parks and Recreation" Sometimes you just need something in your media diet that's the equivalent of comfort food: something happy, joyful, and funny. We will view the pilot episode of this comedy series and consider what made this critically acclaimed series one of the very best sitcoms on television. Take a break and relax with the Parks & Rec team. Presented by Kate Burkart, who studied film at Penn State and has been leading film/media studies at St. Philip since 2002. **May 31** - The Role of the Church in the Holocaust - Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer - To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust we will examine the ministry of the German Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his definition of the role of the church when it is embedded in an unjust society. The session studies the influences on the character and theology of Bonhoeffer and his response to the events of the Holocaust from 1933 to Kristallnacht in 1938. Presented by Mickey Meyers - leader of Bonhoeffer tours at Holocaust Museum Houston for fifteen years. **June 7** - The Role of the Church in the Holocaust - Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer - In this second session we will continue with Bonhoeffer's response to the events of the Holocaust from 1938 to 1945 with the defeat of the German Army, liberation of Nazi concentration camps, and Bonhoeffer's death by direct order from Adolf Hitler. We will end the session by learning the stories of some Houston-area Holocaust survivors. Presented by Mickey Meyers. If you would like to partake in the Church and Society Zoom class, please email Mickey Meyers at mmcgm63@gmail.com.

Sunday Coffee Hour—Once everyone enters the meeting after the service, we are sent to smaller breakout rooms so you have a smaller group to talk with. The groups will randomly be assigned each week. Email Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net.

Women's Monthly Book Club—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Our next meeting is June 11 at 7 p.m. We will discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett led by Karen Winship. Contact Sarah O'Dell for Zoom link – sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

Midweek Bible Study with John Wurster—A look at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. Email John to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net



Visit the [Children's Page](#) on the St. Philip website. This a place that intends to help keep families connected to the church during this time of

distance and separation. Be on the lookout for brief worship videos from Omar in the children's chapel and resources for faith formation at home. There are links to Godly Play stories, prayers and sharing activities to do around the dinner table. You can access the Children's Page using the icon on the home page of the church site.



Presbyterian Mission
**Mission Engagement
& Support**

Dear Rev. Wurster and members of St. Philip Presbyterian Church,

I pray the following message finds you well in this trying time of COVID-19. I'd like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your recent gift to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

Your generosity makes an impact in relieving hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promoting development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assisting in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (supported by your gift) [granted 208 requests](#) for assistance in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic for a total of \$1,119,688 in grants. These grants cover domestic, refugee and international requests. How inspiring it is to see how people of faith and congregations continue to do the work of Matthew 25 while they themselves face challenges during this uncertain time. It is truly a blessing to be part of a connectional church.

Thank you very much for your support of God's mission and love for God's people through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Grace and peace,

Lemuel

Lemuel García-Arroyo

Mission Engagement Advisor – South Region

Presbyterian Mission Agency/Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

IN OUR PRAYERS

Hallie Spence sends a prayer of praise for her mom Mary Linda Williams who is retiring this month after teaching for 50 years (including the St. Philip Choir School in the 1990s). “I am so grateful for the lives she's touched through her many years of being an educator. I know my brother and I benefited from her music education/ministry over the years.”

Bill Taylor and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor upon the death of Bill's mother May 16 in Florida at age 103.

St. Philippians and their families— Guy Aldrich; Pam Rush; Greg Moore; Marion Takehara; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Nikolaus Malczewskyj—father-in-law of Jane Malczewskyj; David Block—brother-in-law of Nancy Lomax; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster—mother of Mark Young; Tom Martin—father of Jon Martin; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Keith Thomerson—brother-in-law of Susan Estill; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; 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; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell.

Homebound: Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Donna Host; Arlette Keene; T.E. “Joe” Kever; Toto McGehee; Phillip McDaniel; Paul & Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philippians: Craig and Jamie Slein—friends of Steve Carmichael; Melissa and Sela Calvert—friends of Kay Cash; Dorcas Rhodes—friend of Jan Meyer; Dave Olson and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Frank Wallace—friend of Jim & Nadene Crain; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin & 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.

The Session has voted to suspend activities at St. Philip indefinitely.

Pledge payments 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.

Next edition: June 2

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 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

