



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
Art Director

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

GOD'S GRACE IN THE GARDEN

While so much has changed over the last several weeks, one thing remains the same: a garden grows. While much of St. Philip's activity has moved online, our vegetable garden has flourished—and continues to feed hungry neighbors. A crew of volunteers planted tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and lettuces in mid-March, just before social distancing began. Those plants are growing, and some peppers and lettuces have already been harvested. The tomatoes will likely start producing in about a month; a couple of other tomatoes that sprang up on their own over the winter already have tomatoes on them and may be ready to pick as early as next week. Collard greens planted from seed last fall have continued to produce lavishly, and about thirteen pounds of them have been donated to CCSC's food pantry since late March.

One story of God's grace from our garden: On Good Friday, I went over to check the garden, harvesting two large grocery bags of collards to deliver to CCSC's food pantry. Finding it unexpectedly closed, I pondered what to do with all those greens; the food pantry would not be open until Monday. Just then, two different families arrived at the door of CCSC, very disappointed that it was closed and they could not get any food. They were mostly Spanish speakers, which I am not, but with a little English and a little sign language, and doing my best to follow safety rules, each of the families accepted a bag of greens and we shared a smile. The image of St. Philip collard greens on Easter tables in our community is a reminder of our shared life together, even in the midst of distancing and disruption.

By the time the tomato harvest starts in May, may we all be able to visit the garden in person. *By Cathy Patterson*



Picture of garden from a past Mission Day.

COMMUNION OFFERING

Thank you for your generosity. The first Sunday of each month an additional offering is received at St. Philip when communion is celebrated to support one of our mission partners.

- In April we were able to give \$2,115 to support One Great Hour of Sharing—PC(USA) which helps fund Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger ministries, and the Self-Development of People.
- In May we appreciate gifts to help Newspring. Newspring strives to help lift people out of poverty through opportunities, programming and relationships. The Visual Arts Program will be the recipient of St. Philip's May communion offering. Serving students ages 8-18 primarily from Title One schools at locations around Spring Branch, Newspring offers art classes and summer programming to Spring Branch ISD students and gives them an opportunity to develop their artistic skills, increase their self-esteem and learn to see their artwork as a catalyst to a future career. Art can open a child's worldview, and we at Newspring feel we need art now more than ever. newspringcenter.org



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.

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 10 - Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II and Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps - My Family's Story - Houston-Area Holocaust Survivors - Hy Penn will tell the story of his father Morris Penn, who was hidden by righteous Gentiles in Lithuania, and his mother, Linda Penn, and grandmother Riva Kremer, both from Poland, who survived eight concentration camps. Presented by Dr. Hyman Penn, a pediatrician by trade and a magician for fun. 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 May 14 at 7 p.m. We will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens led by Sue Howard. Contact Sarah O'dell for zoom link –sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip has changed to a new broker service at Frost Bank effective April 1. Just as with our previous broker, we ask you to:

- Call Yvette Webb at Frost Bank – 713-388-1231 for transaction information.
- Our new account number is #037-293183.

While we are getting used to this new system, please let Denise Ferrell, our bookkeeper, know you are making a donation. You may reach her by phone at the church, 713-622-4807, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons or by email at denise@saintphilip.net.

If you have any questions, you may always contact me at 713-306-8267 or amariepoet@gmail.com.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2020

Called Session Meeting – January 19, 2020

- Session received Harry W. Todd and Aileen Todd into membership by letters of transfer from St. James Presbyterian Church, Jenks, Oklahoma

Stated Session Meeting – January 28, 2020

- Session approved the 2019 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 appointed Jane Cooper and Sharon Webb to 3-year terms on the Central Mission Endowment Council and Deb Burks to fill a 2-year unexpired term, and to appoint Chuck Seidel to be the Session representative.
- Session approved the 2020 St. Philip operating budget totaling \$1,698,160.
- Session approved using “Big God, Big Questions” curriculum from the PC(USA) for the confirmation class.
- Session endorsed the following individuals as confirmation partners: Angela Fulcher for Lucy Vestal, Nathan Carlin for Thomas Kimbro, Molly Boren for Caroline Vestal, Selena Brinegar for Trisha Young, and Rhonda Sands for Rowan Murphy.
- Session approved Communion Offering Recipients for the February 2020 Super Bowl of Caring, chosen by St. Philip Youth, to be Interfaith Ministries Meals on Wheels; and for March 2020 to be Plan It Forward.
- Session approved the partnership between St. Philip Presbyterian Church and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to participate in the two-year Residency Intern Program with shared expenses.
- Session invited the Duerr Lecture Series lecturer, the Rev. Deborah L. Forger, Ph.D., to preach on February 23, 2020 and approved holding a single service of worship that Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- Session approved the 2020 Celebrations of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper during the 11:00 a.m. Sunday services, the 9:00 a.m. Sunday weekly celebration of Communion, and for the mid-week Advent Services for 2020 the 11:00 a.m.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Education Committee voted electronically to approve Property Committee’s request to plant two trees at recommended locations in the playground area.
- Property Committee has approved purchase and planting of six trees.
- Property Committee has approved transferring to Reserve for Replacement 2019 expenses totaling \$40,111.59, which included \$5,945.13 for Mission Center HVAC units.

FEBRUARY 2020

Stated Session Meeting – February 18, 2020

- Session approved the minutes of the February 9, 2020 Congregational Meeting on behalf of the Congregation.
- Session elected Roderick James to a one-year term on the Central Mission Endowment Council in 2020.
- Session voted to hold a single worship service at 11:00 a.m. on April 26, 2020, which is the Sunday of the St. Philip Spring Picnic.
- Session elected Bonnie Moore, Lee Ardell, and Dick Nunn to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the March 21, 2020 Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant at First Presbyterian Church, Lufkin.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Mission Committee has approved a motion to discontinue the attempt to establish a mentoring program with Liberty High School, with special thanks to Sharon Webb for her efforts to try to get the program established.
- Mission Committee has approved a motion to provide up to \$600 to St. Philip Stitches to move and install a long-arm quilting machine (donated by Hope Wilmarth) in the St. Philip craft/mission area.
- Property Committee has approved bids for cabinets and electrical upgrades in the Arts and Crafts Studio. (Previous approval was obtained from the Trustees for support from the church’s Memorial Fund. The cabinets will be installed in a manner that will permit removal and replacement at another location.)
- Property Committee has approved delivery of the year-end summary of Mission Center expenses to the Presbytery of New Covenant. Discussion will begin as to the Presbytery’s share of usage costs for 2020.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session

**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.

Pictured to the right: prayer tree in the Sanctuary.



IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philipians and their families— Walter Baker; Pam Rush; Greg Moore;; Marion Takehara; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; John Bobbitt; Arlette Keene; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster— mother-in-law of Nancy Young; Emily Thetford—daughter of Ed and Janet Hess; 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; Joe Anne Berwick; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Donna Host; T.E. "Joe" Keever; Toto McGehee; Phillip McDaniel; Paul & Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philipians: David Calvert—friend of Kay Cash; Dorcas Rhodes—friend of Jan Meyer; 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.

Next edition: May 19

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



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