

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
Volume 58, Number 12

Houston, Texas
23 June 2014

Report from General Assembly

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Judith Northrop
Ministry Associate

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Thomas Goetz
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Laurie Fortenbery
Office Manager
Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper
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Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Highlights of the April and May Session Meetings

John Lemen, Clerk of Session

April, 2014

Session approved Arts & Crafts Studio to do fund-raising at the Grand Opening on April 27, 2014 during the Spring Picnic and to have a small donation box permanently set for needed supplies.

Session approved the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of Victoria Gabrielle Lewis, daughter of Doug and Pam Lewis, on June 29, 2014, with the Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster officiating.

Session approved having one service of worship, at 11:00 am on Sunday, April 27, 2014, the day of Jazz Communion.

Session approved the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the youth worship on April 19th who will be breaking fast to conclude the 30 Hour Famine.

May, 2014

Session approved Letters of transfer for Members Charles and Pat Guitard to Memorial Drive United Methodist Church.

Session approved removing Elaine Wright from the member register, at her request.

Session approved inviting Rodger Nishioka of Columbia Theological Seminary to preach in worship on Sunday, August 10, 2014.

Session approved paying \$11,677.00 for the parking lot sealcoating and striping work out of the Reserve for Replacement fund.

Session approved allocating the local disbursement portion of the 2014 Pentecost offering to Presbyterian Children's Home and Services and the local disbursement portion of the 2013 Pentecost offering to Kids Against Hunger.

The 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met June 14 to 21, 2014 in Detroit, Michigan.

This letter, from Mike Cole, General Presbyter, New Covenant Presbytery, addresses one issue. A complete reporting can be found at www.pres-outlook.org.

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

I'm sure that most of you are aware that our General Assembly has approved an Authoritative Interpretation that affirms pastoral discretion in performing marriage ceremonies that becomes effective on Saturday, June 21, 2014. In brief, the AI allows PCUSA pastors to exercise their conscience in performing same-sex marriages in marriage equality states.

In addition, the General Assembly is sending an amendment to all the presbyteries for a vote, which changes the language in the Directory for Worship to define marriage as "a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and to support each other for the rest of their lives." It concludes with this important qualification: "Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform, or compel a session to authorize the use of property for, a marriage service that they believe contrary to the Word of God."

Lynn (Hargrove, Stated Clerk of New Covenant Presbytery) and I have created the attached FAQ* to address some of the initial questions you and your members will have about these actions. This FAQ will continue to be updated and posted on our presbytery web site for your use.

Even though this Authoritative Interpretation will not have a

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Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized; **Dick Schissler** in a Houston hospital:

Healthcare: **Margaret Bolding** at Treemont Care Center, **Larry Dean** at Seven Acres, **Frank Donnelly** in hospice care, **Betty Knepper** at Bayou Manor Healthcare, **Mike Tomforde** at Hallmark Healthcare.

Recuperating: **Orlean Anderson**, **Jere Douglas**, **Nelda Simmons**

Check These Announcements

The Friday Men's Fellowship is an opportunity for men of all ages to meet and discuss books of interest. Presently you can consider enjoying a novel, *When God Was a Rabbit*, by Sarah Winman (highly recommended by Dr. Johnaan Bos, our recent Duerr lecturer). Bring a sack lunch every Friday at Noon to the Conference Room in the church office. The book is available in the church office for \$13.

Summer Office Volunteers Needed: Do you have a morning or afternoon open in your busy summer schedule? There is a need for friendly St. Philip volunteers to answer the phone and welcome visitors into the church office. Please call Laurie, office manager, at 713.622.4807 to find out which mornings and afternoons are available.

In celebration of Independence Day, all are invited to enjoy ice cream and cupcakes after the 11:00 am service of worship.

Music at St. Philip presents two remaining concerts in the Summer Recital Series:

Saturday, August 2 at 7:30 pm

Julia Fox, soprano

Anne Leek, Oboe

Matthew Dirst, organ and harpsichord

Sunday, August 31 at 6:00 pm

Robert Bates, organ

Professor of Organ

Moore School of Music

University of Houston

The Philip-Eye will be published on August 12 and 26. Please submit information and articles in a timely manner. 10:00 am on the day of publication is the deadline. E-mail to philip-eye@saintphilip.net or leave in the PE box in the mail room.

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noticeable effect on our congregations and pastors, I know it will be a cause of angst among our members, especially as they interact with neighbors and friends. It is likely that the media will misunderstand these actions and characterize them in ways that are inaccurate.

One of the challenges now before us is whether we will faithfully engage with brothers and sisters who differ from us on a matter that generates such heated debate and polarized division in the world around us. Can we show a more excellent way by remaining together in love and forbearance amid our differences? As we receive news of these GA actions, will we model the way of living that Scripture calls us to embrace: "*Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep*" (Romans 12:15) – even those who feel very differently about these GA decisions than we do?

In Christ's service, **Mike**

*The FAQ referred to can be found at www.pyofnewcovenant.org. Click on Marriage issues, then FAQ. Paper copies are also available in the church office.

On Sunday, June 29, Ann Hardy, Ruling Elder from St. John's Presbyterian Church and a commissioner to this year's General Assembly, will speak at the Church and Society Class about the happenings at General Assembly.

Lectionary Readings

June 29, 2014

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13

Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 6, 2014

4th Sunday after Pentecost

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalm 45:10-17 or *Song of Solomon 2:8-13*

Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 13, 2014

5th Sunday after Pentecost

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 20, 2014

6th Sunday after Pentecost

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 27, 2014

7th Sunday after Pentecost

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 29:15-28; *Psalm 105:1-11, 45b* or *Psalm 128*

Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

KAH July Communion Offering

Kids Against Hunger at St. Philip continues to enjoy the outstanding efforts and support of our congregation. On average more than 12 of our members have participated at each of the eight food packing sessions conducted this year, helping to host the 370 volunteers who have shared this mission-outreach project. Our guests come from a broad spectrum of the Houston Community. Groups representing Stanford, Princeton and Rice universities, Catholic and Methodist churches, business concerns, scouts, and a traveling youth mission group have visited our campus. From our own presbytery, Young Nak youth and Memorial Drive Presbyterian Summer Mission Campers and families joined with us in this mission effort. The productivity of these sessions has increased the all-time number of rice casserole meals packed and delivered beyond 600,000. Monthly deliveries to Kid's Meals and CCSC now exceed 17,000 meals and more than a ton of our nutritious food has been distributed in Matamoros, Mexico.

Continuing to host visiting groups and share food at our current level requires more than \$20,000 a year. The Mission Committee has generously increased our budget share to \$6,000 this year. The New Covenant Presbytery Lynn Johnson Social Justice Fund has awarded our project \$1,480. Gifts from St. Philip members, supportive community groups, and special offerings have helped supplement this challenging amount.

The July Communion offering, to be received on July 6th, will be important in allowing our Kids Against Hunger satellite to operate at its full potential.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JOSEPH LIVING IN A LAND OF MANY COLORS

V.B.S. AT ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 LOCATION: EDUCATION BUILDING (ATTACHED TO SANCTUARY)

JULY 7-11
 MONDAY - THURSDAY - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

JULY 13
 (FOR MONDAY WOODSHOP - 11 AM)

AGES: READY FOR PRESCHOOL THIS YEAR (3-4) THROUGH COMPLETED 5TH GRADE

ONLINE REGISTRATION STARTS NOW!

WE NEED YARN FOR VBS
 The children will be weaving a rope out of yarn. If you have yarn you are willing to donate to this effort, please

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Congratulations to **Matthew Lindsay**, son of **Pat** and **John Lindsay**, who graduated in May from University of Houston with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement.

A thank you note from Bering Omega...

On behalf of everyone at Bering Omega Community Services, thank you so much for your donation of \$500 for our Network of Care. Established in 1986, Bering Omega Community Services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the mission to nurture the well-being, and meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of people affected by HIV/AIDS through compassionate health care and social services. Your support allows us to continue serving Southeast Texas by providing vital oral health care, day treatment services, and hospice care to many of the most vulnerable individuals in our community - uninsured, indigent, and medically underserved people living with HIV/AIDS. Through Bering Omega programs, our clients and their families have access to the resources they need to manage their disease and enhance their lives.

Bering Omega is a prime example of the effectiveness of a well-conceived and well-managed community service organization. Through our public/private/community partnership model, our programs work together to provide a Network of Care that ensures efficient, cost-effective service for those in need in our community. We greatly reduce the need for our clients to access extremely expensive alternatives such as emergency room utilization, hospitalizations, and nursing home care, thus greatly reducing the burden on the other safety-net providers and tax-funded institutions throughout our community and Southeast Texas. Your gift continues to help create **Everyday Miracles** for those we serve.

With sincere gratitude,
 Troy Brooks, Board Chair

Arts and Crafts Studio Classes are Underway, Sundays at 9:30

June 29 - Screen printing - Learn the final steps to screen printing. Apply the design to a screen and print a small format page. Don't worry if you missed Part One. Come anyway! Supplies provided.

July 6 - Bottle Art - Upcycle a clear glass bottle. Have a collection of bottles because they are just too pretty to recycle? Well UPCYCLE them into art! Bring a clear glass bottle and let us show you how to make that bottle into a piece of art. Extra bottles and other supplies provided.

July 13- The Art of **Card Making** with Lorrie Castle - information to come.

Please contact Lori or Jeromy Murphy at lmurphette@gmail.com if you would you like to donate to the A&C Studio. Time, talent, supplies and equipment are welcomed.

Tending the Garden

The St. Philip vegetable garden is blessed with abundance this summer. Early crops like radishes are all done, and now the tomatoes and peppers are coming in. Pests have troubled the squash a bit, but we're trying to use organic methods and avoid pesticides. Despite the bugs, we've been able to harvest both yellow squash and zucchini. Lettuce and collards continue to grow for another crop after one harvest. A couple of eggplant and cucumber plants, which can take the hot weather, are recent additions to the garden and will start producing before too long. All told, nearly 20 pounds of vegetables from our garden have gone to the CCSC food pantry at their Gethsemane location. Special thanks go to Susan Leonard and Lori Murphy for getting our fresh produce to the food pantry over the last six weeks.

In the planning stages is a new offshoot, a third small bed that will be devoted to the children of St. Philip and serve as a "lab" for the kids' connection to God's creation. They will be able to plant herbs or vegetables or flowers—their choice—and watch them grow. A Sunday School session in the garden is planned for later in June; stay tuned for more details. Would you like to get involved with the St. Philip Garden? Perhaps you have time during the day to take produce to the food pantry occasionally. Or maybe you can help build the small bed for the children. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Cathy Patterson or Rev. Judy Northrop.

Summer Lecture Series with Rodger Nishioka

Rodger Nishioka is the guest speaker for the Summer Lecture Series which is scheduled for August 9 and 10, 2014. "Roots and Shoots: Presbyterians Growing into God's Future" is the theme. Please RSVP for lunch (\$5 per person) and/or childcare by August 1 by calling the church office at 713-622-4807. Or you can send an email to laurie@saintphilip.net. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, August 9

- 9:30-10:00 a.m. Coffee and Registration, Gathering Area
- 10:00a.m.- Noon Keynote Presentation, Sanctuary
- 12:00 -1 :00 p.m. Catered lunch, \$5 donation, Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Keynote Presentation, Sanctuary
- 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Session with Youth, ages 11-18, Sanctuary
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Session with Young Adults, ages 19-30

Wine and cheese at the home of Anne & Butch Wilson
RSVP:
anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com

Sunday, August 10

- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Worship service, Rodger preaching
- 9:45- 10:45 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School Class, Rodger leading
- 11:00 a.m. Worship service, Rodger preaching
- 12:00 p.m. Reception with cake, Gathering Area
- 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Leadership Meeting with Rodger, Session and Staff in the Dining Room

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 7pm AA 12 Step, Rm 16	2	3 9am Fitness Class, DR	Happy 4 of July! OFFICE CLOSED 12pm SLAA, Rm 16 8pm AA, Rm16	5 7pm Oasis de Amor Worship Srv. FH
6 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Screen Printing, Part 2 11am Worship Service 12:30pm Ice Cream Social 12:30pm VBS Set-Up in Education Bldg	7 9am-12pm VBS 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Houston Pipers, FH 7pm Theology on Tap	8 9am-12pm VBS 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 7pm AA 12 Step, Rm 16	9 9am-12pm VBS 12:30pm PW Board Mtg., Conference Room	10 9am-12pm VBS 9am Fitness Class, DR 7pm Monthly Book Club	11 9am-12pm VBS 12pm Men's Fellowship, Conference Room 12pm SLAA, Rm 16 8pm AA, Rm16	12 7pm Oasis de Amor Worship Srv. FH
13 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Bottle Art Class 11am Worship Service	14 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Houston Pipers, FH	15 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 7pm AA 12 Step, Rm 16	16 12:30pm 3rd Bridge, DR	17 9am Fitness Class, DR 10am Kids Against Hunger Packing, DR	18 12pm Men's Fellowship, Conference Room 12pm SLAA, Rm 16 8pm AA, Rm16	19 9am Presbytery Meeting at College Station 7pm Oasis de Amor Worship Srv. FH
20 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Card Making Class taught by Lorrie Castle 11am Worship Service	21 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Houston Pipers, FH 7pm Theology on Tap	22 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 7pm AA 12 Step, Rm 16	23	24	25 12pm Men's Fellowship, Conference Room 12pm SLAA, Rm 16 8pm AA, Rm16	26 9am Kids Against Hunger, DR 7pm Oasis de Amor Worship Srv. FH
27 8:30am Worship Service 11am Worship Service	28 6:30pm AA, Rm16 7pm Houston Pipers, FH	29 9am Fitness Class, DR 9:30am Staff Meeting 7pm AA 12 Step, Rm 16	30 9am PASS Program, DR	31 9am Fitness Class, DR 9am PASS Program, DR		

Sunday School Classes for All at 9:30

Classes for Children

Nursery (Birth to 18 months)

Bible Babies (18 months to 3 years) in Room 106

Godly Play (Preschool 3 through 1st grade) Room 104

Summer Days Sunday School

Room 105

Multi-aged class, grades 2 through 12, will combine on June 15, 22, and 29.

There will be no classes in July and August; will resume September 14.

Adult Classes

The Bible Study Class

Room 204, a study of Deuteronomy led by Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop.

Church and Society

Room 201

June 29

“What Happened at the June, 2014 Meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)?”

Presented by Ann Hardy, Ruling Elder, St. John’s Presbyterian Church

and commissioner to GA from New Covenant Presbyterian.

Church and Society will take summer vacation and return on September 14 following Rally Day Sunday.



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Dated material

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

01 Virginia Lemen	Matthew Shepherd	McNair Johnson	James Vick
Joanna Munson	Katie Senior	17 Julieana Lawson	Martha Hargraves
Walker Fairaa	Christopher Parada	18 Alice Nord	25 Bill Lee
02 Sarah Hannah	10 John Boone	Jack Northrop	26 Ken Meyers
04 William Rowe	11 Beverly Hudson	19 Marian Murphree	Sharon Coufal
Randy Steward	12 Fairfax Fair	Leah Bream	Jade Maxwell Wells
05 Lindsey Koczenasz	13 Connie Mayfield	Cindy Pope	29 William O'Dell
Alyssa Lewis	Gene McKelvey, Jr.	Fort Flowers	Abigail Flowers
06 Frank Donnelly	14 Micah Meyers	21 Diana Herzog	
07 Christian Davis	15 Barbara Runge	Melanie Anderson	
Abigail Lee	Laura Lomax Bream	22 Bob McHone	
08 Carla Burns	16 Cindy Dees-Johnson	Sage Maxwell	
Tyler Keever, Jr.	Charlie Wood	23 Austin Lippincott	
09 Paul Pennington	Joan Boelens	24 Margaretta Bolding	
Gil Thompson	Travis Calhoun		