

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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6 July 2010

Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits
Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

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Organist
Dr. Justin Smith
Director of Music
Margaret Dement
Director of Youth Bells

Judy Gunn
Director, Children's Ministries

Cindy Pope
Interim Director of Youth
Ministries

Karen St. Laurent
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Introducing Our Summer Lecture Series Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick is no stranger to Houston or to St. Philip Presbyterian Church of which Cliff and his family were a vital part in the 1970s when he also served as Executive Director of Houston Metropolitan Ministries (now Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston).

Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick is the President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC). He was elected as leader of the worldwide organization of 214 Presbyterian, Reformed and Congregational Churches from 107 nations at the Alliance's 24th General Council in Accra, Ghana in 2004. He is responsible for chairing the Executive Committee, for being the public spokesperson for the Alliance, and for furthering the commitments of the Alliance for justice in the economy and the earth.

Dr. Kirkpatrick serves as Visiting Professor for Ecumenical Studies and Global Ministries at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In this capacity he teaches courses on the ecumenical movement, world mission and evangelism, and Presbyterian and Reformed theology and polity. He also serves as advisor to Presbyterian students.

Rev. Kirkpatrick is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). From 1996-2008 he served as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and, at the conclusion of his term of service in 2008, was elected by the General Assembly as Stated Clerk Emeritus. As Stated Clerk, Kirkpatrick served as the chief ecclesiastical officer of the denomination and its primary spokesperson and leader in the ecumenical movement.

His service as Stated Clerk was preceded by fifteen years of service as the Director of the Worldwide Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In this capacity, he

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Please Welcome to Our Pulpit

Guest preachers scheduled for the next several weeks are as follows:

July 11 - Rev. Diane Prevary

July 18 - Rev. Greg Han

July 25 - Rev. Stew Coffman

August 8 - Rev. Dr. Steven Spidell

August 15 - Rev. Greg Han

August 29 - Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick

Rev. Prevary is the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant.

Rev. Han is a former associate pastor of St. Philip and has recently served as parish associate. Greg worships regularly at St. Philip with his wife Holly, and children Caleb, Elias and Gabriel.

Rev. Coffman is the retired General Presbyter of the Presbytery of New Covenant. Stew also worships regularly at St. Philip with his wife Shirley and their daughter Ann Frautschi and her family.

Rev. Spidell is the Executive Director of Presbyterian Outreach to Patients (POP) and has a long association with St. Philip. Steve often preaches at St. Philip on the Sunday when many in the congregation are at Mo-Ranch.

Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick was Stated Clerk of the General Assembly for 12 years and was recently the President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC). In the 1970's he and his family were a vital part of St. Philip while he was Executive Director of Houston Metropolitan Ministries (now Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston).

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www.saintphilip.net

Congregational Concerns:

Healthcare: **Louise Bradley** and **Frank Donnelly** at Hallmark; **Ruth Siciliano** at Bayou Manor; **Lola Scott** and **Mary Louise Wade** at Hampton at Post Oak.

Recuperating: **Bill Camfield**

At home: **Penny Vieau**

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Marty Coyle** and **family** on the death of her husband, **Bob Coyle** on June 29; and to the **family of Barbara Glenn** on her death on June 30.

Check These Announcements

The Men's Fellowship offers to all men of the church a more intimate, informal opportunity for study, fellowship and service. We meet each Friday at noon for a BYO lunch followed with a presentation and discussion. Currently we are reading *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, by Adam Hamilton. Get your copy from Dan Flowers and join us!!

Library News: If you are a fisherman, check out the new collection of books on display in our library. Our own fisherman, John Hannah, helped select the books. They are a Memorial Gift from a former member of our church, Camille Jackson and her family, given in memory of Tim Baker. Pat Gabel has created a handsome display.

Third Wednesday Bridge: Do you like to play bridge? Come join us monthly from 12:00 to 3:30 pm Interested? Call the church office so that you may be contacted.

The Philip-Eye will be published on July 19, August 2, 16 and 30. Please submit information and articles in a timely manner. E-mail to philip-eye@saintphilip.net or leave in the PE box in the mail room.

Vacation Church School

July 26 -30 9:00 am to 12:00

The theme for the week, GALACTIC BLAST: A COSMIC ADVENTURE PRAISING GOD!, is an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that brings children into a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We will gather each day in Room 11. Children ages 3 years through 5th grade are encouraged to participate. Younger children may attend if a parent is working in the school.

Please call the church to register your children, grandchildren, and friends. If you would like to participate as a teacher or shepherd contact Judy Gunn at the church.

From Your DCM:

More than thirty years ago pine trees were planted in the front yard of my house. They grew through the years producing tons of pine straw that needed to be raked, too often. In the fall of some years hundreds of pine cone fell to the ground. There were more than enough for the decorating needs of the neighborhood. Last year the evil pine bark beetles attacked the three story trees causing a sudden death. Once the tree were removed and stumps ground, I planted a "memorial garden" to honor the lost giants. Knock-out roses, marigolds, petunias, and zinnias were planted to pay tribute to the many years that the pines had graced my yard.

The "memorial garden" became a great adventure in gardening for me. It received many compliments from the neighbors that also mourned the loss of the pines. The petunias were covered with blankets during our cold days of freeze that took a toll on many Houston area plants. To my great delight the petunias came back from the roots in the spring producing huge lush purple flowering plants much larger than the fall flowers. The marigolds and zinnias came back from seed in vivid displays of color. There were more than enough of these plants so some were shared with a neighbor. Her zinnias have enjoyed their new home and add a great splash of color to the garden.

The "memorial garden" is getting a name change to the "resurrection garden". While weeding the garden I discovered a two inch tall pine seedling. Perhaps it will grow to become another mighty giant.

God has given me such a great gift of enjoyment in observing the beauty of creation. Plants have a life cycle that we do not often get to see through to the end results. We so often pull up the old plants in too much of a hurry to replace the area with new nursery plants. We need to be patient and wait to see what God has planned for us.

Judy

Youth News

Summer with SPY

Future summer events include possible trips to the beach, movie days and more. Don't miss out on the summer fun. See you at SPY!

SPY Summer Mission Trip

Join us on our summer SPY mission trip to San Antonio, TX, from July 28 - 31. We will participate in local service projects and learn more about Presbyterian mission effort in the San Antonio Area. Make a difference - last chance to sign up for our mission trip! For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact Cindy Pope.

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served as leader of the Presbyterian Church's ministries in partnership with churches in over 80 other nations in the areas of evangelism, education, health, world service, and social justice. Prior to that, he directed various ecumenical ministries in the state of Texas.

Over the years he has been a major leader in the ecumenical movement in the U.S.A. and around the world. In addition to his leadership with the Alliance, he has been a member of the Central and Executive Committees of the World and National Councils of Churches and one of the Presidents of the U.S. Conference on Religions for Peace. Most recently, he has served as President of the International Calvin Jubilee Patronage Committee.

Clifton Kirkpatrick is married to Diane Worthington Kirkpatrick, who is now retired after serving for many years in the leadership of Habitat for Humanity. The Kirkpatricks have two children: Elizabeth, who is a Presbyterian minister, and David, who is an executive in the field of alternative energy. They have three granddaughters: Katherine, Amara, and Caroline.

Dr. Kirkpatrick is a graduate of Davidson College, and he received his theological education at Yale University Divinity School and his doctor of ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary. In addition, he has been recognized with honorary doctoral degrees from Westminster College, Han Nam University, Silliman University, and Davidson College.

We welcome Dr. Kirkpatrick as our guest lecturer for the Summer Lecture Series, 2010. His topic will be "What is God's Plan in Our World Today: Implications from the Witness of the Global Church for our Ministry". He will be preaching on August 29th and lectures will be at 7:00 pm on August 29 and 30. (Additional information will follow in these pages.)

Kids Against Hunger Packing Session - July 18th

Many Houston school children depend upon school lunch programs for most of their meals. Summer can be a very difficult time for families with limited resources to provide adequate nutrition for their children. Agencies our Mission Commission serve have made a special appeal to us for Kids Against Hunger rice casserole packages. The difficult economic times have amplified the extent of hunger and even malnutrition in Houston. This demand has completely depleted our supply of packaged meals this summer.

Come help us meet this serious need. One packing line can produce more than 4,000 meals in one hour. We will be packing food July 18th after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Lunch will be available for \$7 in the Dining Room. The packing area is adjacent to the Dining Room. Sign up now in the church office.

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Welcome new member **Jere Douglas**, who comes to us by transfer of his membership from St. Andrew's Presbyterian here in Houston.

The Hunger Offering received July 6 benefiting Kid's Meals, Inc. totaled \$903.00. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Update: The Church Information Form for a New Senior Minister

Now that Bill Poe has left, we hope that he and Betty Anne are enjoying their well-earned retirement. I'm sure that we'll all keep them in our prayers.

But, St. Philip now needs to deal with moving forward together. We have told the congregation some things about our process of calling a new Senior Minister. It is time consuming - perhaps up to a year. One of the first things we must do is to prepare a comprehensive Church Information Form (called a CIF for short). In common vocabulary, this advertises our job to the denomination; but more importantly, it requires that we think deeply about our Church, its Pastor, and our future together.

The Session formed a "Draft CIF Task Force" and asked Bill Lee and Randy Steward to lead it. Their job is to collect the required information and present it as a DRAFT to the Pastor Nominating Committee (called the PNC for short) when it is formed, likely in August. The PNC then may want to gather additional information. That's their prerogative. They will be responsible for the final results. The Task Force is just helping the PNC get started on the process.

Two things are coming up soon. First, you are asked to complete a survey. All replies will be anonymous. Everyone for whom St. Philip has an e-mail address will get an e-mail survey this week. This will be supplemented by a paper survey available in the Narthex on Sundays, July 11 and 18. Please let the Church office know if you want a survey mailed to you. Please respond as soon as possible but before July 26.

Second, the Task Force then will conduct a Congregational Dialogue on Sunday, July 18. Those who would like to participate are asked to join the Task Force after Church (both services) for a brief dialogue about our future together. We will let you know the locations.

Thank you.

A note from Bill Poe...

June 28, 2010

Dear St. Philip Family,

Thank you for making our last Sunday with you such a wondrous and memorable experience for Betty Anne and me! It was amazing, from beginning to end!

First, there was the surprise of dear people from our former congregations, whom you had invited to share the day with us. It helped to bring our career in ministry "full circle."

Then, there was the worship service, with our newly expanded bell choir, pipes and drums, a beautiful duet from Julia Fox and Robin Angly, and the surprise of the anthem you had commissioned Rob Landes to compose in our honor! What an incredible talent and dear friend he is, and what wonderful voices you raised!

And the luncheon was a tremendous finish to it all, with the delicious food, the beautiful decorations, the generous gifts and moving tributes, and so many of our dear church family gathered around us. And as Providence would have it, the children and I worked on the same song! It was truly a glorious day.

We love you all, and we will see you again! When the appropriate time comes, invite us back, and we'll be here! And remember, the farm isn't that far away, and we will love visits.

You will remain in our prayers in the coming weeks and months. God will continue to bless you richly, to uphold you courageously, and to use you mightily to share God's love and grace with all God's children.

Lectionary Readings

July 11, 2010

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 18, 2010

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 25, 2010

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

Church School Classes for All

Classes Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am

Classes for Children

Nursery through ages 3-4

Room 7-8.

The Wee Believe Summer material will be used.

Pre-K-5th grades

Children's Choir room on the 2nd floor of the Administration Building

Children will work with Justin Smith,

Rachel Kimbro and Rob Kimbro on the musical *Moses and the Freedom Fighters*.

Youth Classes

Junior High and Senior High

Café SPY.

Rooms 205/206 in Education Building.

Adult Classes**The SPa (St. Philip Adults)**

Room 200 in the Education Building

This class is studying "Living the Questions".

Leadership is on a rotating basis.

The class will resume after Labor Day.

Church and Society

Room 201 in the Education Building

July 11

Multi-cultural Church continued

led by the Rev. Tim Phillips

July 18

Michelle Shonbeck, CCSC's Director

will be reviewing the book

"A Framework for Understanding Poverty"

by Ruby Payne, Ph.D

July 25

Michelle Shonbeck will provide an overview of

Christian Community Service Center's

seven programs to combat poverty

and will include relevant stories to

illustrate the agency's mission.

Dated Material

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