

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
Volume 53, Number 2

Houston, Texas
26 January 2009

Welcome These New Additions to Our Staff

Rev. Dr. William C. Poe
Pastor

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Jack Boelens
Parish Associate

Rev. Gregory Crisp Han
Parish Associate

Keith B. Weber
Director of Music
Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist
Margaret Dement
Director of Youth Bells

Judy Gunn
Director, Children's Ministries

Cindy Pope
Interim Director of Youth
Ministries

Karen St. Laurent
Office Manager
Nancy Craig
Administrative Assistant

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor
Dimas Parada
Custodian

Susan Estill
Newsletter Editor
philip-eye@saintphilip.net

Session Names Parish Associates

The Session has renewed for another year the Parish Associate relationship between St. Philip and the **Rev. Dr. Jack H. Boelens**, honorably retired Presbyterian minister. He will remain "of counsel" to our Pastor, Bill Poe, offering the benefit of his wisdom and experience.

The Session has also initiated a new Parish Associate relationship for 2009 with the **Rev. Gregory Crisp Han**, who was our Associate Pastor from 2000 through 2004. Greg is now on the faculty and staff of St. John's School, and he and his family have returned to make their church home at St. Philip. Greg will be available to assist Bill Poe in worship, to preach for him when he is away or "needs a break," and to offer his teaching abilities to the church.

The Parish Associate relationship allows a Presbyterian minister, who is not presently serving a congregation, to be related in an official capacity to the life and work of a particular church. The relationship is initiated through nomination by the Pastor, and is approved by the presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

New Interim Director of Youth Ministries

by Bill Poe

At its January Stated Meeting, the Session hired **Cindy Pope**, a member of St. Philip, to serve as our Interim Director of Youth Ministries.

Even before Carrie and Shawn's departure, I was having conversations with officers, youth and their parents, Sunday School teachers, and youth fellowship advisors about our youth programs. In those conversations, I have emphasized how important I thought it was to have someone in this position as quickly as possible, so that our youth programs had the staff support they needed to thrive.

Cindy Pope is an experienced Church Educator, having served Presbyterian congregations in California for more than 15 years prior to coming to Houston. She has also served at the presbytery level, overseeing regional educational gatherings, youth events and mission trips, and curriculum preparation. She is bright, enthusiastic, energetic, open, and excited about serving our youth and their families in this Interim position, while we are deciding how our church staff needs to be configured for the future.

Basically, Cindy will be here every Sunday, in youth Sunday School classes as a support and resource for the teachers; and on Sunday evenings, working closely with Keith Weber, our Director of Music, and with the youth and their advisors, to make our various offerings for youth a unified whole. Cindy will also attend our weekly staff meetings on Monday morning, to coordinate youth activities with the rest of the church calendar and to be a colleague with the rest of us. She will also meet monthly with the Education Commission.

I am excited about the addition of Cindy to our church staff. She brings to us the wealth of her experience and the strength of her devotion to the youth of the church. I hope that you will welcome Cindy into this important interim staff position.

Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized/Healthcare:

Herb Scott at The Hampton;

Nathan Vits, grandson of **Patty** and **Bill Forbes**, in hospital in Cincinnati for a series of surgeries.

Recuperating: **Nancy Johnson, Carol Junkin**

At home: **Bill Boren, Karl Dick, Chuck Fortney, Leah McRoberts, Penny Vieau**

In Iraq: **Ken Evans**, Tamara Arlinghaus' father

A note from Carrie and Shawn: *Dear St. Philippians, Many thanks for your kind and generous gifts to us as we said goodbye to St. Philip. We appreciated your hugs, best wishes, cards and gifts. You have sent us off well, and we go on to this next call knowing of your love, care, and support. May God's blessings be with you all.*

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 in the office Conference Room each Friday at noon for a BYO lunch followed with a presentation and discussion. Currently, we are reading *The Apostles Creed for Today*, by Justo L. Gonzales. Get your copy from Dan Flowers. Grab a sandwich and join us!

Attention Mo-Ranchers: Your statement has been sent to you via email and payment in full is due February 1. If you have not received a bill, contact Jeanie Flowers immediately at 713 527-8696 or jeanief3431@sbcglobal.net.

The Women of St. Philip will spend this coming weekend in retreat at Camp Allen. Travel safe and have an enjoyable time.

Join us for Wednesday Night Live. Dinner is served from 6:00 to 6:45 in Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$7.00 per adult, \$3.00 for children. A short worship service follows; workshops begin at 7:00.

Save the Date: You are invited to **Christian Community Service Center's 13th Annual Azalea Dinner to be held March 26, 2009.** Details in the next *Philip-Eye*, but put this special event on your calendar now!

The Philip-Eye will be published on February 9 and 23. 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.

From Your DCM:

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life." You can't do a thing to change yesterday and only God knows for sure what is going to happen tomorrow. So today is the only day you have.

How do you seize the day? First build upon the knowledge you have that God has worked in your life in the past. Since God "never changes or casts shifting shadows" (James 1:17) you can have confidence that God will continue to work in every detail of your life. Second, have faith that God has secured your future - no matter what happens. God has given you hope.

If you live in the context of these dynamic beliefs, then you will live in "God's power today". When you know that God works through your circumstances, they will energize you.

So go out and make a difference in your world. Leave an impression on everything and everyone you touch because of what God has done for you.

from *God is in the Small Stuff Graduate's Edition*, by Bruce and Stan.

Judy



Fifteen years ago, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, a youth-led grassroots movement that is now an international event. Since going nationwide in 1993, these youth have raised millions for people in need.

This year our dollars will benefit Interfaith Ministries Kid's Meals Program. This project serves at-risk and special needs children 2 to 6 years old living in a family whose income is "low-income" based on the Federal Guidelines on Poverty. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday to hungry children living in areas of southeast Houston.

At the close of worship this Sunday February 1, our youth will be in the Narthex with soup pots to receive your donations. Be generous. Empower the Souper Heroes in our congregation as they help others through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Every dollar collected will go to the Kid's Meals Program.

Explore Space Center Houston with the PrimeTimers

The PrimeTimers will travel to Space Center Houston on February 5th. After experiencing a simulated Blast Off, we will be updated on NASA space exploration in the Blast Off Theatre. The Starship Gallery has an incredible cross section of historical items from NASA space missions. Examine the cockpit of the space shuttle and walk through the giant Skylab Trainer. Touch a rock from the moon.

After lunch, we will relax and enjoy a presentation on the 5-story tall screen at Space Center Theatre. Don't miss out. Sign up soon at the church office.

Duerr Lecture Series February 22, 23 and 24, 2009

The speaker for the twelfth annual Duerr Lecture Series, will be Rev. Vernon S. Broyles, III. His lectures are titled "Confessions of a Presbyterian Fundamentalist: Reflections on 50 years of wrestling with God's call to faith and action, guided by a Presbyterian understanding of the Church." They will focus on the foundational convictions that make us Presbyterian and will also contain personal recollections and insights gained over a life of ministry under the Presbyterian banner, including the struggle to hear God's voice and to try to give it visibility in the troubled world in which we live.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the lectures to hear this engaging speaker help us understand how we can live out our faith in today's world. Broyles will preach at the Sunday morning worship services and present lectures each evening at 7:00. Preceding the Sunday lecture in Fellowship Hall, dinner will be offered at a cost of \$7.00 per person. All lectures are free and open to everyone. Childcare is available for all ages for each lecture by calling the church office.

February Hunger Offering

The February 1st hunger offering recipient is the food services program of Interfaith Ministries. Located in the heart of Montrose, IM is one of the oldest interfaith organizations in the city offering health and nutrition services to children, youth, and refugees.

Food and money collected at our church will be donated to the support of home-delivery of meals to at-risk and special-needs children and the delivery of hot, nutritious meals to seniors as well as non-perishable groceries on a Saturday a month to low-income seniors. This program has long been a beneficiary of our benevolence dollars. We invite your donations as we continue to support IM with our non-perishable food goods and dollars.

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Hallelujah! Through your generosity, 88 people experienced the joy of Christmas in a very special way. Hundreds of gifts and over \$5000 were collected for our Kids' Meals families. Thank you, St. Philip!

Congratulations to **Jack Lippincott** who successfully completed the running of his 34th consecutive Houston Marathon. He continues to amaze!

Colby Major Stewart, born January 20 to **Wendy and Jay Stewart** makes **Judy Gunn** one proud grandmother.

Updated Furniture in the Gathering Area of the Administration Building

You may have noticed that the administration building gathering space looked a little bare during the first several weeks in January. The Property Commission convener, Lee Murphree, assisted by the Architectural Design and Finishes Committee has been doing some work to update furniture in this area. Gifts of furniture over the last few years for this area were examined and accepted for usefulness in this area by St. Philip's Architectural Design and Finishes sub-committee of the Property Commission. There was then a need to update the fabrics of this sturdy and functional furniture into a more coordinated and attractive area of the church.

St. Philip is indebted to those who generously provided furniture to improve the usefulness of this area for small group meetings and receptions. Lee Murphree assisted by Gary Whitney, Doris Cantrell, Betty Moreton, Renee Wright, and Charles Lucas helped with this "update" project that was approved by the Session in December '08.

The new fabrics have been treated with a "Clean as a Whistle" fabric-guard to improve longevity and appearance. We can all help make this happen by our care and by quickly washing off any spills or soil that we accidentally cause or notice. The reupholstered furniture will be reinstalled in the St. Philip administration building gathering space during the week of 1-26-09.

Sunday Evening Youth Programs!

Youth Music at 5:00

Dinner and Youth Group from 5:45-7:30.

February 1st

Super Bowl party!

February 8th.

Bowling at Palace Lanes

February 15th Love stinks?

Post-Valentine's Day evening of activities and discussion about love and relationships.

February 22nd

Explore your faith through a Nooma video.

The John Blow Clearing House

The Clearing House is the place to bring all your discards (magazines, books, clothing, household items, anything and everything). These items are passed on to the various agencies that are supported by our church.

The main bulk of the items are now going to Christian Community Service Center, SEARCH and The Women's Home. The Clearing House is also a storage place and drop off point for items for the Seafarer's Christmas boxes. In addition, we are sending stuffed animals to Medical Benevolence Foundation. If you know of a special need by any of our church-supported agencies, please contact Janet to see if that need can be filled.

The Clearing House is located in the brick building behind the kitchen. It is open on Sundays from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. During the week a key is available in the volunteer receptionist's office. **The Clearing House can no longer handle any furniture.** With questions call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385.

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Houston Extension Program

is pleased to announce the following course offerings for the spring semester of 2009:

Tuesdays, 5-7:15 p.m.
Introduction to the New Testament
(Dr. Lewis Donelson) - 6 credits;

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Hebrew Reading
(Mr. Jack Garland) - 3 credits;

Thursdays, 5-7:15 p.m.
Introduction to Pastoral Care
(Dr. Steve Spidell) - 6 credits;

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Choral Music and Corporate Worship
(Mr. Keith Weber) - 3 credits

The Tuesday courses will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston.

The Thursday courses will be held at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston.
Classes begin Tuesday, February 10.

For more information about these course offerings or the Houston Extension Program, contact Dr. Jim Currie, director of the program, at 713-965-0766.

Author Thomas Moore to Speak

Thomas Moore, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Care of the Soul* (1992) and other books on spirituality, will be at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 29, to present a lecture titled "Deepening Our Spiritual Life."

A Roman Catholic who embraces elements of Zen, Moore was a practicing psychotherapist from 1974 to 1990. He holds a Master of Arts in musicology from the University of Michigan, an M. A. in theology from the University of Windsor, and a doctorate in religion from Syracuse University. His latest work, *Writing in the Sand: The Spirituality of Jesus and the Soul of the Gospels*, is scheduled for publication in May.

Moore says, "Talk about spirituality usually aims rather high: the pursuit of virtue, knowing the mysteries, self-improvement, the perfect person and the perfect community. But spirituality also needs depth: emotional substance, spirituality in the world and in everyday life, and a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the teachings. In other words, spirit needs soul. In this gathering, we'll consider concrete ways to become 'soulfully' spiritual."

This event is free, but a donation of \$10 is suggested to help defray expenses for this presentation. Any funds collected over our expenses will go to benefit Christian Community Service Center. St. Mark's is located at 3816 Bellaire Blvd. between Stella Link/Weslayan and Buffalo Speedway. For more information, contact the church office at 713-664-3466.



February	14 Mary McKelvey
1 Nan Schissler	15 Marilyn Crawford
1 Brandon Steele	15 Molly Vestal
2 Walter Baker	16 Kristen Goetter
2 Joan Purcell	16 Marguerite Badger
3 Mary Louise Wade	17 Austin Kallus
3 Bill Morris	18 Julia Fox
3 Betty Stone	19 Joseph Webster
4 John Lindsay	22 Wallace Pepi
4 Stephen Paul Lawson	23 Winfield Williams
5 Beverly Baker	23 Betty Duson Kahn
5 Ginny McDavid	23 Philip Davis
7 Joanie Andrews	24 Charles Evans
8 Olivia Munson	24 Virginia Waldrop
9 Karl Dick	25 Shirley Frautschi
10 Roy Nelson	26 Mary Ann Thomas
13 Ann Lockwood	26 Lucas Spath
13 Emilie Hebert	27 Miles Frey
	27 Renee Wright



Don't miss the next *exciting* evening offered by:

Grace Song, Inc.

Keith Weber, *Artistic Director*

“The Triumph of Life...”

Music of Redemption

Including

- Benjamin Britten's Canticale III, 'Still Falls the Rain'
- A set of songs about Life and Death sung by **Jamie Barton**
- A new, fully-staged production of Gustav Holsts' one-act opera:

‘SAVITRI’

Directed by Tara Faircloth
Costumes by Rooth Varland
Conducted by Keith Weber

with

The trebles of the **St. Philip Choir**

Natalie Arduino as **Savitri**

Dann Coakwell as her husband, **Satyavan**

and

Gabriel Preisser as **DEATH...**

Saturday, March 14th at 7:30 pm
in the St. Philip Sanctuary

Sunday School Classes

The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Meets in Room 200

Church & Society

Meets in Room 201

"Living the Questions 2.0" curriculum

Led by Bill Poe

Feb. 1 "The Myth of Redemptive Violence"

Feb. 8 "Practicing Resurrection"

Feb. 15 "Debunking the Rapture"

Feb. 22 "Reclaiming the World"

Bible Study

Meets in Room 204

A study of Genesis

led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop.

Youth Sunday School

All Junior High (6th-8th grades) and Senior High youth (9th-12th grades) are invited to join us Sunday mornings in the youth rooms for a study called "Claim the Life".

Lectionary Readings

February 1, 2009

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 8, 2009

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 15, 2009

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30

1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

February 22, 2009

Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9