

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
Volume 54, Number 1

Houston, Texas
4 January 2010

Soli Deo Gloria

Rev. Dr. William C. Poe
Pastor

Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits
Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Jack Boelens
Parish Associate

Rev. Gregory Crisp Han
Parish Associate

Rev. Helen Bailey
Parish Associate

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Dr. Justin Smith
Interim 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
Office Manager
Nancy Craig
Administrative Assistant

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor
Dimas Parada
Custodian
Peter Ramadan
Custodian

Susan Estill
Newsletter Editor
philip-eye@saintphilip.net

Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Lectionary Readings

January 6, 2010

Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 10, 2010

Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17, 2010

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24, 2010

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 31, 2010

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

February 7, 2010

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 14, 2010

Transfiguration of the Lord
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2;
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Sunday, January 3, 2010, was truly a day of glory to God and a manifestation of the working of the Holy Spirit in the congregation of St. Philip. About 100 members and friends of St. Philip gathered together after the 11:00 worship service to work together to bring the parts of the new Paul Fritts pipe organ into the sanctuary.

A delicious lunch was served to the group by Chuck Johnson and then Fritts gathered the troops into the sanctuary to introduce his men, Bruce Shull, Erik McLeod, Andreas Schonger and Tim McEwen, and to let us know how we would proceed with the work. The moving truck had backed as close as possible to the sanctuary and the workers proceeded to line up to receive the many hundreds of pipes, boards, framework and things we knew not, to take into the sanctuary. After about four hours of work by the many hands, the truck was empty and the sanctuary was full. An amazing number of church members, men and women, older and younger, had remained to the very end.... and thank goodness, because it took over twenty men to move the final piece of framework into the building!

Several people brought cameras and many pictures and a video were taken. As soon as possible those pictures will be made available for all to see.

Special thanks to Wilbert Parada and Dimas Parada who worked tirelessly with the group to the very end. In addition to their work on Sunday they had worked to prepare the sanctuary for the arrival, along with help from members of the Property Commission.

It was a good day... it was an amazing day! Thanks be to God! And thanks be to Paul Fritts and his crew and to all who helped out.

Watch a video by Chuck Johnson at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVI_eZr810g

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized/Healthcare: none known

Recuperating: **Helen Harris, Virginia Lemen**

At home: **Bill Boren, Meredith Gartner,
Penny Vieau.**

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Beverly and Walter Baker and family** on the death of their son, **Tim Baker**, on December 23, 2009.

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!!

Watch your email this week for your Mo-Ranch bill. Your statement of the amount due will be sent to you via email or if you have no email address, by snail mail.

The Houston Marathon will take place on Sunday, January 17th. Road closures near the church require that those of us coming from the west choose an alternate route for getting to church that Sunday. Check *The Chronicle* or online for street closures.

Volunteer Opportunity - Lord of the Streets (LOTS): The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is this Sunday, January 10. We gather in the St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 am to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and are back at the church by 9:00 am in time for Sunday School. Fifteen volunteers are needed. If January 10th is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying mission project.

Many thanks to those that brought gifts for the Advent Giving. The socks, underwear, and tee shirts were donated to the Houston representative for the Presbyterian Children's Home. The food was donated to the food pantry at Faith Presbyterian Church in Baytown, Judy Gunn's home church. All of the clothing items filled two paper boxes and there were many sacks of food. Your generosity will be appreciated by the many that receive these gifts.

The Philip-Eye will be published on January 18, February 1 and 15. 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 the Pastor's Study:

Dear St. Philip Family,

Yesterday (Jan. 3rd) was a glorious day! About 100 people stayed after the 11:00 a.m. service to help in bringing all the pieces of our new organ into the sanctuary. It filled up the moving van, and it filled up the sanctuary! Thanks to our organ committee and all the hard-working volunteers who carried pieces both large and small, the largest of which was about 10'x20' and weighed over 700 pounds! The actual construction began this morning (Monday, Jan. 4th), and will continue over a period of several weeks, to be followed by tuning and "voicing" all the pipes.

Your Session will be on a day-long retreat on Saturday, Jan. 16th. We will be talking about and planning for the months of transition we have before us, looking toward my retirement at the end of June, bringing in an Interim Pastor, and all the issues surrounding the possible union with Central Presbyterian Church. Conversations are still progressing about that, so watch your newsletter for updates.

I want to say a personal word of thanks for all the love, concern, and compassion Betty Anne and I have received around the illness and death of our nephew, Mason Jackson. You have been a most supportive church family to us during a difficult time, and we are immensely grateful.

Although we have wrapped up the Stewardship Season, it is still not too late for you to make a pledge of money, time, and talent to the church for 2010. As of this past week, we have received 160 financial pledges totaling \$1,116,873, or about \$50,000 short of the challenge budget the Session laid before the congregation. Please contact the church office about your commitments, so that your officers can make well-informed plans for this year.

Finally, a reminder that the Houston Marathon is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 17th. Several of our members will be participating in the run, but it sometimes makes it difficult for some of us to get to church that morning. The best rule of thumb is to use the freeway system to get to Loop 610 and then get off at the San Felipe exit.

I look forward to seeing you in church next Sunday!

In Christ,
Bill



St. Philip Wants You!

St. Philip Presbyterian Church will host the Presbytery on New Covenant Saturday, February 6, 2010. We will need volunteers to direct people to parking places, to classrooms, to help with lunch, for registration, etc.

We will have sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area beginning January 10th. This is a great opportunity for all of us at St. Philip to showcase our beautiful new sanctuary and our newly partially installed organ. If you have questions please call Florence McKelvey [713-668-6100].

Duerr Lecture Series

Speaker for the 13th annual Duerr Lecture Series, February 21, 22, and 23, 2010, will be Rev. Dr. George W. Stroup, J. B. Green Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. His lectures, "**The Gods Around and Within Us: Our Struggle with Idolatry**" will address questions about the meaning of idolatry, what form it may take in contemporary life and what resources there are in Christian faith that can help us in our struggle to "unmask idolatries in Church and culture" (*A Brief Statement of Faith*).

Dr. Stroup was born in Tulsa, OK, and received degrees at Rice University, Yale Divinity School and Vanderbilt University. He is an ordained minister and is a member of Cherokee Presbytery. Stroup has many publications, most recently are *Before God*, (Eerdmans, 2004) and *John Calvin* (Abdingdon, 2009). He has served on The Committee to Write a Brief Statement of Faith and is currently on the committee considering the addition of the Belhar Confession to the Book of Confessions.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the lectures to hear this engaging speaker help us understand the Bible's deep concern about idolatry and how it relates to our lives today. Stroup will preach at the Sunday morning worship services and present lectures each evening at 7:00.

All lectures are free and open to everyone. Child care is available by calling the church office.

PrimeTimers Activities for the New Year

Be sure that your name is on the list for the latest planned activities. The Prime Timers will need to sign-up in advance for our **February 6th** visit to the Alley Theatre. The play "Wonderland" is a delightful new musical that updates Alice's adventures through an amazing pop score. To get the reasonable group ticket price of \$15 dollars we must pay for our group by January 12th. The bus will leave the church at 1:30 pm for this matinee performance.

Hallelujah!

CORNER

The Joy Offering received on December 20, 2009 totaled \$2158.00.

The offering for the Minister's Discretionary Fund, received on Christmas Eve, totaled \$1990.00

The Hunger Offering received January 3, 2010 benefiting the hunger ministries of Christian community Service Center totaled \$1237.00.

Thanks to all for your continued generosity.

Reach Out and Touch Someone in 2010

Christian Community Service Center is excited to announce that the Gethsemane Food Pantry (located at Gethsemane United Methodist Church) will be increasing operations to include a fourth day of the week. Beginning in January 2010, we will start serving clients in need on Fridays from 9:45 am to 1:00 pm and volunteers are needed to serve as interviewers, reception/greeters and food packagers. Please consider helping us help others.

For more information, contact Clare Bruce, Resource Development Coordinator at 713-961-3993 x211 or cbruce@ccschouston.com.

Wednesday Night Live Resumes Jan. 13

Dinner at 5:45 followed by a study led by Rev. Kristy Vits.

The class is called "The Question of God." From the PBS website: *The Question of God* explores in accessible and dramatic style issues that preoccupy all thinking people today: What is happiness? How do we find meaning and purpose in our lives? How do we reconcile conflicting claims of love and sexuality? How do we cope with the problem of suffering and the inevitability of death? Based on a popular Harvard course taught by Dr. Armand Nicholi, author of *The Question of God*, the series illustrates the lives and insights of Sigmund Freud, a life-long critic of religious belief, and C.S. Lewis, a celebrated Oxford don, literary critic, and perhaps this century's most influential and popular proponent of faith based on reason. The class will watch a dvd and then have a discussion.

Kids Against Hunger will be packing food on January 13th after the class.

Youth News

Café SPY Joined By Youth Choir: Youth Choir meets from 9:15 to 9:45 am in the choir room. Café SPY meets in the youth room from 9:45 to 10:30 am. Cafe SPY features hot chocolate, great coffees, yummy goodies and stimulating discussion on the theme "Faith Questions".

Confirmation Class begins on January 24th during the Sunday School hour. This class is open to all youth 6th grade and older.

Church School Classes for All Ages
Sunday Mornings 9:30 am

Classes for Children

Nursery through two year olds
Room 7-8.

Godly Play class for ages 3-4
Room 6.

Elementary Rotation classes K-5th grades
Room 105.

Youth Classes

Junior High and Senior High
Café SPY.

Rooms 205/206 in the Education Building.

Adult Classes

The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Room 200 in the Education Building

Join us for a casual, discussion format class with rotating leadership and involvement by all.

Bible Study

Room 204 in the Education Building

The class is studying the Book of Exodus
Led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop.

Church and Society

Room 201 in the Education Building

January 10 and 17

Mary Marcotte will lead two classes called "Everybody Needs Somebody, ALL the Time."

Our loving God has called us into relationship. These relationships involve loving God and neighbor.

We will ponder some biblical models for important relationships.

January 24 and 31

Laureen S. Perenyi will lead two classes called

"The Five Fingers of World Vision - Helping the Poorest of the Poor Focus on Women and Children."

Dated Material

St. Philip Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
4807 San Felipe
Houston, Texas 77056
713.622.4807
www.saintphilip.net

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Houston, TX
Permit No. 2396