

# PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church  
Volume 53, Number 21

Houston, Texas  
19 October 2009

## October 25, 2009 Reformation Sunday Beginning Our Stewardship Week

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Pastor

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Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III  
Pastor Emeritus

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Parish Associate

Rev. Gregory Crisp Han  
Parish Associate

Rev. Helen Bailey  
Parish Associate

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Organist

Dr. Justin Smith  
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### Lectionary Readings

October 25, 2009  
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Reformation Sunday  
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)  
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

November 1, 2009  
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
All Saints' Day  
Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24  
Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

November 8, 2009  
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127  
Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 15, 2009  
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18); Mark 13:1-8

November 22, 2009  
Christ the King/Reign of Christ  
2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18)  
Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Reformation Sunday is the day we Presbyterians celebrate our Scottish roots. Here at St. Philip we do that in fine style with the sound of bagpipes and our pastor dressed in a kilt. All congregants are invited to come to worship wearing plaid in celebration.

This same Sunday marks the beginning of our Stewardship Week. Our theme, *Varieties of Gifts, Varieties of Service, One Spirit* prompts us to reflect upon the time, talent, and funds given by the many people who have made St. Philip the unique church it is. It inspires our journey into our future, which begins with our pledges for 2010.

The completion of our Time and Talent Survey is a vital part of our Stewardship commitment. There are commissions serving our congregation as the working arms of our church. Each of us has a talent to give. There is an insert with this newsletter that describes in detail the work of each commission. Please indicate how you would like to volunteer to participate in the ongoing work of one or more of our commissions. Each commission needs your hands, heart and mind to work effectively for our congregation.

Immediately following the 11:00 am service we will have a **congregational luncheon in the Fellowship Hall**. There will be time for discussion and questions about the 2010 budget. You do not want to miss this festive and informative event. Call the church office to make your reservation.

A pledge card and Time and Talent Survey sheet has been mailed to you. On November 1, 2009, All Saint's Day, we will present our pledges of money, time and talent to the work of our church in the coming year. Join us on this day for worship and celebration.

### Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized/Healthcare: none known

Recuperating: **Julieana Nichols Lawson,**  
**Tom Williams**

At home: **Grayson Anderson, Bill Boren,**  
**Penny Vieau**

In Iraq/Afgahanistan: **Ken Evans**, father of Tamara Arlinghaus; **Travis Keever**, Pam and Frank Keever's son; **Robert Phillips**, Martha and Jim Braswell's nephew.

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **the family of Carl Wischmeyer** on his death on October 7th.

On Sunday, October 18, some of former St. Philip member **Sybil Dray's** ashes were scattered in the Memorial Rose Garden.

### Check These Announcements

**The Men's Fellowship** meets each Friday at noon for a BYO lunch followed with a presentation and discussion. Currently we are reading *The Life of Jesus for Today*, by Ronald J. Allen. Get your copy from Dan Flowers and join us !!

**At a meeting of the congregation on October 18**, the following were elected to serve as St. Philip officers: Elders **Cheryl Barker, Kate Burkart, David Fox, Joe Harwood, Omar Rouchon, Cathy Steward, Sondra Sullivan, and Wesley Vestal**; Youth Elder, **David Lindsay**; and Trustee **Bill Lee**. Please pray for these new officers as they begin their training and assume, in January 2010, their duties for our church.

**Attention Presbyterian Women:** If you have photos of last year's Women's Retreat, please call Barbara Rathgeber at 713 468-8990.

**Those who ordered CD's from this summer's lecture series with Rev. Kathy Rigby**, see Paxton Williams after Sunday worship.

**Attention gardeners:** On Saturday, October 24th volunteers are needed beginning at 9:00 am to plant fall flowers around the campus. If you like to get your hands in the dirt, this is the place to be!

**The Philip-Eye will be published** on November 2, 16 and 30. 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.

### The Organ is Coming! The Organ is Coming!!

On Sunday, January 3, 2010, the transport truck will pull up to the church during the morning and immediately after church we will begin unloading the organ parts and placing them in designated places in the sanctuary and choirloft. Members of the Property Commission have consulted with our organ builder, Paul Fritts, about needs for that day and will have everything prepared for it. Volunteers will be able to sign up for the unloading and everyone is invited to participate. If you can't carry other duties can be found for you. In this way, the members of the St. Philip family will take physical and emotional possession of the organ. A lunch will be served by Chuck Johnson for the occasion. During that coming week the organ parts will be gradually moved up to the loft to begin assembly and the sanctuary should be ready for occupancy again the following Sunday.

Four men will accompany Fritts to Houston to assist in the assembly of the organ. We need a couple of volunteers to house two men (separate rooms, but they can share a bath). This can be in one home or in two homes, preferably within about 3 miles of the church. These men will need two weeks of housing. The next request is if anyone has a 5-passenger car, van or SUV that they are not currently using and are willing to loan, it would be very helpful. This would be needed from Jan 2 - 30.

Meantime, in the next few weeks, preparations will begin in the choirloft and in the mechanical room for the installation of the organ. The organ blower will be placed in the mechanical room and must have a wall built around it (city code). An air conditioning compressor will be placed on the roof and ducting installed to the organ which must have its own A/C unit! Certain electrical work will be done and some minor changes made in the choirloft. The wall currently behind the electronic organ, where the speakers are placed, will be demolished. At this point it is not completely certain what this will mean for our worship or how long we will have the use of the electronic organ, but our worship life will continue, that is certain! Estimated time for these preparations is 6-8 wks.

Wait! There's more! On November 15th, Sunday, Paul Fritts will have a reception at his shop in Tacoma, WA, from noon to 4:00. The organ has been built there (perhaps you have seen the poster in the gathering area or saw the video on Rally Day) and a small portion of it will be available to be played. We are all invited and some of the organ committee members are planning to travel there. Paul has also said that if anyone wants to come up before that time they are welcome. If you are interested in traveling there, please speak to one of the organ committee members. After this reception the crew will begin disassembling the organ and preparing it for transport.

This is an exciting time! Your Organ Committee  
(continued on page 3)

(from page 1)

members have been working on this since 2004 and we are really looking forward to the delivery day and the installation of the organ. Fritts has said that within 30 days about half of the organ will be playable. The date of the organ dedication service and concert is set for April 18, 2010. We hope that you will share in this joyous time with committee members Robin Angly, Al Atkinson, Matthew Dirst, Elizabeth Duerr, Susan Estill, Jeanie Flowers, David Fox, Gene McKelvey, Justin Smith and Miles Smith.

### 35th Annual CROP Walk on Sunday, November 1, 2009

You can fight hunger, both locally and internationally through participation in the Church World Services' CROP Walk. CROP means **C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty. 25% of the money raised in the Houston CROP Hunger Walk goes to this year's local recipient - Interfaith Ministries' Meals on Wheels program, whose drivers deliver hot nutritious meals to over 3600 homebound seniors.

Registration opens at 1:00 pm on Sunday November 1, 2009, at the Art Park on the Sabine-to-Bagby Promenade (Sabine at Memorial Dr.). The walk starts at 2:00 pm. If you want to participate there are several ways in which you can do so: You can walk the 5 Km or one mile route; You can recruit one or more friends to walk with you; You can get friends or relatives to support you with donations; You can support a walker with a donation; You can raise funds even though you are unable to walk; You can pray for the CROP Hunger Walk and for the poor and hungry.

To obtain Donation Envelopes, in which the funds you raise must be turned in no later than two weeks after the Walk, contact Howard Hartman at 888- 297-2767/888-CWS-CROP.

### Reminder: Kids Against Hunger, Houston Begins November 7, 2009

If you, or you and your kids want to volunteer to pack meals for the Kids Against Hunger program, please sign up in the church office, or contact our Mission Coordinator, George Pope, at 832 373-7534. The program begins on November 7, 2009, with packaging the mix of soy, rice, dried vegetables and 21 vitamins and minerals for distribution to hunger and/or starving children at home and abroad. We start at 11:30 a.m. that day, with some training from a representative of the Kids Against Hunger Foundation.

Lunch is being provided by the Fellowship Commission, and we plan to go until 1:30 p.m. We'll decide at that time when our next packing session will be.

## Hallelujah!

CORNER

Welcome new member **Don Padgett** who transferred his membership from Catonsville Presbyterian Church in Catonsville, MD on Sunday October 4.

On Sunday, October 18, **Elizabeth Leigh Foley**, niece of **Kim** and **Paul Hoesel** received the sacrament of baptism.

**Marguerite Badger** will be honored at a luncheon on October 26 by the staff of Memorial Hermann Hospital for 50 years of volunteer service.

Congratulations to **Beth** and **Glenn Hendrickson** who will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary on October 28th.

### Welcome New Member...

**Katina Papatopoulos** became an affiliate member at St. Philip on September 6, 2009. She is a member of First Presbyterian, Dallas, and is in Houston to study at the University of Houston.

Katina is in her second year of a five-year Ph.D. program in School Psychology at UH. She was born and grew up in the Dallas area. Her parents and younger sister, age 16, reside in Grapevine, TX. Most of the rest of her family live in either Louisiana or Greece. She graduated from Colleyville Heritage High School in 2003, then majored in Religious Studies with a minor in Psychology at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN where she received her degree in May 2007.

In the year between her undergraduate and graduate studies, Katina stayed at home during which time she was a substitute teacher. She also became very involved with her home church where she volunteered as a youth sponsor and took students on summer youth trips—Mo-Ranch, for example. She sang in the Chancel Choir and played the flute whenever the choir director could find music to which she could contribute. That was a lot, she says.

Katina likes to read and is currently enjoying the Twilight series of books when she has spare time or just needs a break from her work. She loves going home to Dallas to visit her family and church family. If only they lived closer, she would be spending lots of spare time with them. While she misses her family, she is very happy to have found a church family at St. Philip.

We're glad she found us, too! What a joy it is to have Katina here, and we are most appreciative of her musical gifts.

## PrimeTimers Visit C.S. Lewis' Narnia Thursday, November 5th

Be among the first to visit The Chronicles of Narnia exhibit at The Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land. Walt Disney Pictures presents a three-dimensional world that combines the wonders of science with aspects of fantasy. Encounter exciting environments such as the famous attic and wardrobe. Experience falling snow and the chill of sitting upon the White Witch's Throne. See props and set dressings from the magical film.

After visiting the Narnia exhibit, explore the new museum. See the Hall of Minerals with its cave of fluorescent minerals, The Hall of Life Sciences with an exhibit of live frogs, and the Hall of Space Science with views from the Hubble Telescope.

Lunch will be at Pappadeaux Seafood Restaurant. Call the church office to sign up.

## Youth News

**Café Spy:** It's new. It's different. It's the place to be. Café SPY features hot chocolate, your choice of a variety of great coffees, yummy Panera goodies, and stimulating discussion. The theme is "Faith Questions" and the group continues reflecting on the question, "Who is God?" Start Sunday morning off in the Youth Room, 9:30 to 10:30 am.

**Spy Bistro:** Sunday evening, St. Philip Youth fellowship is back with a whole new vibe! Join Cindy and Justin for fun, games, and activities. Future events include CROP Walk, Kids Against Hunger, Laser Tag, Bowling Night, Overnighter, mall madness and more. It all happens before Christmas. Don't miss out - invite your friends and join us in the youth room each Sunday night from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

## Sign Up for "Dinners for Eight"

The Fellowship Commission cordially invites you to sign up to be a part of "Dinners for Eight" for the 2009-10 year. It's a great way to enjoy delicious food and become really well acquainted with other St. Philipians. Between November 2009 and May 2010, your group will host dinners in each others homes (The host usually prepares the entrée and everyone else brings appetizer, sides and dessert.)

A sign-up sheet is in the Church office as well as on a table in the narthex, or you may contact Skip Britton at 713 664-1284 for further details.

## The John Blow Clearing House

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

The main bulk of these items are now going to the Christian Community Service Center, The Women's Home and SEARCH. (The Clearing House is also a storage and drop off point for Seafarer's Christmas boxes.) In addition, stuffed animals are sent to Medical Benevolence Foundation. If you know of a special need by any of our church's agencies, contact Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 and every attempt to respond will be made.

The Clearing House is located in the brick building behind Fellowship Hall kitchen. It is open on Sundays from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. During the week a key is available in the front office.

Special note: Furniture and computers are no longer accepted. With any questions, call Janet.

## Wednesday Night Live!

Our mid-week gathering begins with dinner at 5:45 p.m. and "First class period" ends at 6:50 p.m. What happens in between is a study of *The Gospel according to Luke* led by Bill Poe. Call the church office if you want your "name in the pot for dinner" or just come for the study.

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, all the Seafarers' boxes will be packed with the goodies that were sorted on 10/14. Children can help with this or they may continue decorating the bags for lunches!

Pumpkin carving on October 28.

## Women's Retreat 2010

The Women's Retreat has been rescheduled for February 12-14 at Camp Cho-Yeh. This date will allow our group to stay in the hotel rooms, eat in the attached cafeteria, and gather in the adjacent meeting rooms. The cost will be \$145 for those staying one or two people to a room and \$123 for three people in a room. This cost will include four meals. A deposit of \$50, due December 1, is needed to secure a reservation. Make your check payable to St. Philip marked "Women's Retreat".

Please sign up at the volunteer desk. With questions please contact Kristy Vits, Judy Gunn, or Sondra Sullivan.

**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-5<sup>th</sup> 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

The group is touching on a variety of topics during the Fall, from personality style and spirituality to a study on gratitude and several things in between.

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

And for monthly pot-luck suppers

November 22 - 5:00 to 7:00 pm in room 105

**Bible Study**

Room 204 in the Education Building

A study of the book of Exodus

Led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Wadrop

**Church and Society**

Room 201 in the Education Building

"A Call for Social Justice"

The last in a Film Series sponsored by the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee

October 25

"Outsourcing" A man who lost his job to outsourcing travels to India, where he witnesses how outsourcing of US jobs has affected India's culture.

Led by Bill Morris.

November 1

Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species* (published 150 years ago)

Led by The Rev. Greg Han

November and December

"Living the Questions 3.0"

November 8

A Kingdom Without Walls

Led by Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits

November 15

Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision

This and subsequent sessions in this series

Led by The Rev. Dr. Bill Poe

November 22

Incarnation: Divinely Human

November 29

Intimacy with God

December 6

Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry

December 13

Creative Transformation

December 20

Embracing Mystery

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

November

1

Charles Guittard

6

Harry Anderson

Lance Wilmarth

7

Barbara Dong

8

Sondra Sullivan

9

Ed Hairston

Molly Boren

Ellen Wallace

10

Mark McDavid

11

Anne Johnson

12

Paulie Carlson

Sarah O'Dell

13

Lisa Armstrong

14

Carol Lucas

15

Fiona Murphy

16

Nadene Crain

Will Waldrop

18

Josephine Helland

19

Bebe Burns

Martha Frietsch

Ruthie Waldrop

Eleanor Carter

Jack Carter

20

James Cooper

21

Robert Estill

Beth Hogle

Caroline Flowers

Carolyn Keller

22

Paul Arlinghaus

24

Karen McKibben Morris

26

Jay Lippincott

27

Catherine Hannah

Bennett Johnson

28

George Helland

29

Don Davis

Gail McCollough

Doug Lewis

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## Reflections on Stewardship

The Stewardship Commission offers this information about the commissions of our Session to provide awareness of their work and the amazing array of activities supported by our pledges. It is hoped that this will be helpful as we all prayerfully consider our pledges and contributions of time and talent for 2010.

### **The Education Commission - A Lifetime of Learning**

Are you taking advantage of the many exciting learning opportunities being made available by the Education Commission? The Education Commission is charged with coordinating and providing people of all ages and all stages of life opportunities to learn and grow in their faith. Learn about the teachings of Jesus Christ and as well expand our understanding of our church, church history, and the church in the world.

The funds budgeted for Education are used for curriculum and supplies for all of the classes and groups - preschool, elementary, youth and various adult - and provides Bibles to children, youth trips and events, and some guest speaker costs. This budget also covers materials for various retreats and trainings, such as officer retreat/training, Mo Ranch, women's and men's retreats, etc. Costs for Wednesday Night Live! and the annual Summer Lecture Series along with events for Lent/Easter, Advent, Rally Day, teacher appreciation, and Vacation Bible School are included, too.

### **The Staff Commission - Supporting Those Who Serve St. Philip**

This commission is the sounding board, review group, and support structure for all the staff members of the church. In conjunction with staff members and various commissions, the Staff Commission writes the job descriptions for all staff positions. Office policies and procedures are approved and implemented through this commission, which also administers the annual review process for each staff member. When needed, the Staff Commission takes recommendations regarding personnel to the Session for consideration.

The annual allocation for the Staff Commission is the largest single portion of our budget. These funds provide the salaries and benefits for 12 employees and the travel expenses for one parish associate.

### **Mission Commission - Reaching Out and Helping Others**

The Lord calls us to reach out to the community and world around us, helping those in need. The Mission Commission coordinates and offers a plethora of opportunities to serve those with the least by the giving of financial support and well as your time and talents. Some of the ways to be involved in mission of our church are Lord of the Streets, blood drives, hurricane recovery efforts, delivering meals, Christmas family support, Alternative Christmas Market, and CROP walk. There will be exciting new mission trips/local opportunities in the coming year as well as the new Kids Against Hunger program, which will be kicking off soon. The Mission Commission also promotes the monthly Hunger Offerings and PC(USA) special offerings such as the Peacemaking, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Pentecost offerings

St. Philip's Mission Commission budget currently includes support for: Presbytery of New Covenant (including denominational missions), Interface Samaritan, Christian Community Service Center, Special Refugee Project, Good Neighbor Healthcare, Harris County Drug Court, Interfaith Ministries, Juan Marcos Presbyterian, Kids' Meals, Fund for Theological Education, Seniors' Place, Presbyterian Outreach to Patients, Women's Home, Omega House, Seafarers' International, Mexico Mission Project, Mo-Ranch, More Light Presbyterians, Peacemaking & Social Justice, CanCare, SEARCH, United Campus Ministries, and Medical Benevolence Foundation. An annual Mission Fair highlights many of these.

### **Congregational Care - Supporting our Members**

The mission of the Congregational Care Commission is embodied in Jesus' compassionate concern for people. This group coordinates the contact with and assistance for members who are in the hospital or confined to their homes. This can take the form of visits or sending a card or note, delivery of meals and/or flowers, providing needed transportation, and organizing Communion for those who cannot attend worship. The Congregational Care Commission works with the pastors and other trained volunteers to provide support and guidance when members have special needs or family crises.

The Congregational Care Commission budget is miniscule and reflects the fact that the primary work of this commission is in the giving of time and attention. As members of St. Philip we have the opportunity to assist this commission by volunteering to send cards, make meals, or help with transportation or deliveries.

### **Worship Commission - Preparing, Listening, and Responding to God's Word**

Worship is central to the life of St. Philip Presbyterian Church. The Worship Commission, along with the Pastors and staff, is charged with seeing that the various aspects of our public and private worship of God are coordinated and running smoothly. This commission helps plan the worship services, recruits members to participate (liturgists, acolytes, music/choir, ushers, Chancel Guild, etc.), schedules/proposes the observances of the Holy Sacraments of Communion and Baptism, coordinates the music programs and oversees special worship events like weddings, funerals and memorial services.

It is the many volunteers, pastors and staff members that make our worship so meaningful, but it also takes money to make it all happen. Music is the largest budgetary item under this commission and includes supplies, sheet music, equipment, etc. for the adult, children's and hand bell choirs; music interns; contract musicians; special musical productions; and Jazz Communion. The Communion elements, chancel supplies, worship bulletins and other worship resources are also part of this commission's budget, as are occasional guest minister costs.

### **Property Commission - Taking Care of Our Buildings and Grounds**

Does the management of our property seem like a daunting task? Well, it is. But, at St. Philip, it doesn't fall to just one person. We are very fortunate to always have a dedicated group of church members on our Property Commission who give their time and talent to overseeing not just the maintenance of the property but also the use of the buildings and grounds. The Property Commission regularly inspects the buildings and furnishings, schedules routine annual maintenance of the facilities and develops long-range plans for capital needs.

The annual budget for the Property Commission includes everything from landscaping to light bulbs - all the regularly scheduled upkeep on the buildings and grounds is spent from this budget. But, as in our homes, we do occasionally have a surprise somewhere - a leaky air handler, peeling paint, a dead tree, or any of a number of different kinds of sudden demands for funds for the property. Several years ago the Session added a Reserve for Replacement line to the budget to fund just such needs. Putting these funds, for unbudgeted but urgent property related issues, as a special line item in the budget has brought stability to our annual budget in recent years.

### **Congregational Communications Commission - Getting the Word Out**

The primary task of the Congregational Communications commission is two fold: keeping the congregation informed of all this church's happenings and letting the community and world know about the worship, education, and fellowship opportunities at St. Philip. Coordinating with all the other commissions, this commission is responsible for ensuring St. Philip's mission is reflected in all of its publicity. Designing and updating informational brochures on the church's programs and ministries, overseeing the production and maintenance of church directories, working closely with the *Philip-Eye* Editor, and maintaining regular contact with local media representatives are part of these efforts.

Advertising is the biggest part of this commission's annual budget, though the emphasis on advertising is shifting from print media to online possibilities. For special events or occasions, consideration is given to placing ads or public service announcements in several media outlets. Maintaining and updating the church's website, advertising with Google Ad Words, and publication and mailing costs round out this commission's budget items.

### **Fellowship Commission - Strengthening Our Ties With Each Other**

At St. Philip we like to share good times and this is the commission that makes it all possible. The annual church picnic at the Poe Farm and the Rally Day Weekend BBQ and dance are planned and executed by this group. They also oversee the small fellowship groups, such as Dinners for Eight, many of the programs that occur regularly throughout the week, and receptions that are not planned by another Commission or group.

The annual budget for this Commission is small; making the members of this Commission masters of thrift while creating the events we all love and remember. In addition to providing for the meals and refreshments for fellowship events, they often help in the kitchen, set-up tables and other equipment, decorate, serve, clean up, and do the dishes. What makes it memorable is that they have such fun together as they bring the joy of fellowship to our congregation.

### **Belonging Commission - Welcoming Visitors and Introducing New Members to the Life of the Church**

Hospitality is what the Belonging Commission is all about - attracting people to visit St. Philip, welcoming them, assisting them in finding ways to meet their needs, inviting them to become members, helping to assimilate them into the life and work of the church, and encouraging them to remain active.

This commission coordinates these ongoing programs: the Greeter Program on Sunday mornings, the Visitor Welcome Table, Visitor Contacts to contact new visitors within 24 hours of their visit, member nametags, the maintenance of visitor and member attendance records using the friendship pads, and introducing new members to the congregation through a new member pictorial display, *Philip-Eye* articles, and other means. It also sponsors occasional dessert parties for new members and experienced visitors, works with other commissions and staff to see that membership directories and informational brochures are updated regularly, organizes "What is a Presbyterian?" classes, and performs an annual membership review.

The Belonging Commission accomplishes much through volunteer efforts, as its budget is relatively small. The budget includes the costs for information in new member packets, items in the visitor gift bags, costs for new member meals and dessert parties, subsidizing a portion of the member nametags, costs of maintaining the friendship pads, and some signage and display costs.

### **Stewardship Commission - Providing for the Future of St. Philip**

The primary responsibility of the Stewardship Commission is carrying out our annual Stewardship Campaign each fall, focusing on our gifts of money, time and talent in support of our mission and ministries. This commission also strives to educate the congregation about the budget and the work of the commissions. In an effort to coordinate the fund raising activities of the many groups at St. Philip, the Stewardship Commission reviews fund raising requests and makes recommendations to the Session in this regard.

The Stewardship budget is substantial but only a small fraction of it is used in support of the Stewardship Campaign. In one of the quirks of accounting, almost all of the funds are dedicated to the expenses of our Church Office, insurance on our property, production of the weekly bulletins and newsletters, and other needs related to the day-to-day operation of the church.