

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
Volume 53, Number 20

Houston, Texas
5 October 2009

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
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Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor
Dimas Parada
Custodian
Peter Ramadan
Custodian

Susan Estill
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Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Proposed Officer Nominees

Peacemaking and Social Justice Banner

In recognition of St. Philip's commitment to the concepts of peacemaking and social justice, a new banner has been added to our collection of works of fabric art. This piece, designed and created by St. Philip member and fabric artist Hope Wilmarth on commission from St. Philip's Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, was presented October 4th to our congregation.

This banner was inspired by the artist's appreciation of hundreds of colorful origami cranes hanging from the ceiling of the sanctuary at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA and features the story of the peace crane project following World War II.

The story of the peace crane comes from Sadako Sasaki, who was two years old when Hiroshima was bombed. Ten years later, she contracted leukemia. While Sadako was in the hospital, a friend reminded her of an ancient Japanese legend: if she folded 1,000 Cranes, the gods might grant her wish to live. Although she did not reach her goal of 1,000 cranes, her struggle for life and her dedication to peace inspired her classmates to construct a peace statue for all children who were victims of the atomic bombing of Japan. The Children's Peace monument, completed in 1958, stands in the Peace Park in Hiroshima with the inscription, "This is our cry. This is our prayer. For building peace in the world."

The peace cranes are the central focus of this banner. Hope's design incorporates cranes flying for peace over the empty cross of Jesus, which

(continued on page 4)

The Session has approved a **congregational meeting for October 18, 2009** to hear a report your Congregational Nominating Committee to consider for election ten officer nominees. The officers that you elect will take office January 1, 2010 and will serve for three years except the Youth Elder who will serve for one year.

The nominees proposed by your Nominating Committee are as follows:

Bill Lee, Trustee: Bill, and his wife Jane, have been members of St. Philip since early 1972. Three generations of their family are now members. Bill, an ordained elder, has served as a Deacon, Treasurer and Trustee. He and Jane co-chaired the Capital Campaign in 2004. Bill is a retired Professor of Management and Associate Dean of the Business School at Rice University.

David Lindsay, Youth Elder: David, son of Pat and John Lindsay, was baptized at St. Philip and has attended St. Philip regularly since his birth. David has been active in the church's youth group and has been a regular attendee at Church School. He was confirmed during his 8th grade year, enjoys attending St. Philip on Sunday and is interested in learning about God through Bible study and worship. He has attended two youth mission trips and the Montreat youth conference this past summer.

Cheryl Barker, Elder: Cheryl Barker is a native Houstonian and has been a member of St. Philip for eight years. Cheryl was a public elementary school teacher, Title I Coordinator, and a Teacher Specialist for the Houston Independent School District for thirty years, retiring in 2008. Cheryl volunteers in the church office on Monday mornings, volunteers for Kid's Meals, assisted with the last Capital Campaign and will assist with the current general pledge campaign. She regularly attends the Church and Society class. Cheryl and her husband Don, have two adult daughters.

Kate Burkart, Elder: Kate, an

(continued on page 3)

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized/Healthcare: **Tom Williams** at Methodist, **Carl Wischmeyer** in Hallmark Healthcare

Recuperating: **Betsy Flowers**

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

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

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Randy Steward** and **family** on the death of his grandfather, Alvin Fowler, on Sept. 24th in Little Rock; to **Marguerite Badger** and **family** on the death of her brother, Richard Oliver, on Sept. 27th; to **Rebecca Harrison** and **family** on the death of her brother; and to **Ben Dees** and **family** on the death of his grandmother, Marcia Dees on Sept. 29th.

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 *The Life of Jesus for Today*, by Ronald J. Allen. Get your copy from Dan Flowers and join us !!

Our annual Flu/Pneumonia Clinic will be held on Sunday, October 18th in the Dining Room from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The cost for a flu shot is \$30.00 and the pneumonia shot is \$45.00. You may sign up by calling the church office, 713-622-4807.

"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 (meeting between November 2009 through May 2010 for four fellowship dinners). It's a great way to enjoy delicious food and become really well acquainted with other St. Philippians. A sign-up sheet is in the Church office as well as on a table in the narthex, or you may contact Skip Britton for further details.

Ring Dem Bells: Our Bell Choir is up and running! Rehearsals are from 6:00 until 7:00 pm on Thursdays in the Bell Room Are you an experienced ringer or a novice? Doesn't matter, you are welcome to join us!!

The Philip-Eye will be published on October 19, 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.

From the Pastor's Study:

In the twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians, St. Paul writes of how the early Christian community was blessed with "varieties of gifts" and "varieties of services" by the "one Spirit." Even though this early faith community was a diverse one, their diversity was a gift from God. It was in the God revealed through Jesus Christ that the community found its unity.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church is also blessed with "varieties of gifts" and "varieties of services" by the "one Spirit." In this year's Stewardship Season, we will be celebrating these gifts and services by recalling our stewardship of all that God entrusts to us. We will also be making our commitments of time, talent, and money to God's work through the church in the coming year.

On **Sunday, October 25th**, we will have our usual joyous **Reformation Sunday** services at 8:30 and 11:00 A.M., with the wearing of tartan, the skirling of bagpipes, and the Choir's presentation of J. S. Bach's Cantata No. 80 on Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Following the 11 o'clock service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for an **All-Church Luncheon** where we will share food and fellowship and learn about the exciting opportunities that await us in the new year. During the week that follows, **October 26-31**, we will all have the opportunity to consider prayerfully what our commitments to God through this church will be in 2010.

Then, on **Sunday, November 1st, All Saints' Day**, at both services of worship we will give thanks to God for those who have placed such a precious heritage into our hands, and present our pledges of money, time, and talent as an act of worship.

Please plan to be present for these special events in the life of our church. Remember your church in prayer, giving thanks to God for blessing us with "varieties of gifts, varieties of services, and one Spirit."

Yours in Christ,

Women' Retreat Scheduled

Save the dates of January 28-31, 2010 for the Women's Retreat at Camp Cho-Yeh. The cost will be less than \$125. We will be staying in the newly completed cabins and using the new conference center. Several people are a part of the planning team, but we would welcome additional members. Please contact Kristy Vits if you would be will to participate in the planning. Please call the church office to make your reservations to attend. We must let Cho-Yeh the number of participants in early December. If you have additional questions contact Sondra Sullivan or Judy Gunn.

(from page 1)

ordained elder, joined St. Philip in 1998, served on the Session from 2001 to 2003 and on the most recent Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee. Kate currently participates in the Monday Evening Study Group and the Church and Society class (and it's planning group), is a member of the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, the ushers guild, and enjoys leading St. Philip members in semi-annual film studies. Kate manages the editing and publication of rules and procedures for employees of the American General Life Companies.

David Fox, Elder: David, a life long Presbyterian joined St. Philip in the early 1960's. He has served as Deacon and Elder, and currently serves on the Worship Commission and as Trustee, completing his term this year. After retirement from the financial industry, David has worked full time managing the Medical Benevolence/Project Cure Warehouse in the provision of used medical items to church medical institutions around the world. David sings in the St. Philip choir and the Houston Symphony Chorus.

Joe Harwood, Elder: Since joining St. Philip, Joe has served on the Worship Commission and as coordinator of ushers. He and his wife, Nancy, have participated in Wednesday Night Live, Dinners for Eight and PrimeTimers. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of The Pinemont Retirement Center. Joe, a native of Palestine, TX, is a graduate of Texas A&M and South Texas College of Law. He and Nancy have been married for 46 years, and have two daughters, Kathryn and Susan.

Omar Rouchon, Elder: Omar joined St. Philip in October 2007, transferring his membership from Gates Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York where he served as a Trustee in 2001. At St. Philip Omar has sung with the choir and recently traveled as a chaperon to the Montreat Youth Conference. He also serves on the Congregational Communications Commission and is currently working on the publication of a new St. Philip photo directory. Omar graduated from Yale University with a degree in Political Science and was chosen as a representative of "Teach for America" to teach in special locations in the U.S. He moved to Houston to teach fifth grade math and science at Klentzman Intermediate School in Alief. He is currently working on his M.Ed. in Mathematics at the University of Houston.

Cathy Steward, Elder: Cathy has been a member of St. Philip since 1991. Since then she has live in and served churches in Austin, New York City, and Philadelphia. She has been active in working with youth, and at St. Philip has served as a Deacon and on the Fellowship and Education Commissions and on a Congregational Nominating Committee. Cathy introduced "Dinners for Eight" to St. Philip. She and husband Randy have a daughter, Claire.

Sondra Sullivan, Elder: Sondra has been a member of St. Philip since 1987 and has served as an Elder, a Deacon, a Stephen's minister, a Women's Circle leader, and on numerous committees. She is

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Hallelujah!

CORNER

Welcome new members **Logan Vits** who joined St. Philip Sept. 20; **Katrina Papathopoulos** who joined Sept. 20th as an affiliate member; **Diana Fields** who joined Sept. 27th, and **Don Padgett** who joined October 4th.

The Peacemaking Offering received on October 4th totaled \$3,101.02. Thank you for your continued generosity.

A note from Dr. Cynthia Morgan, who with husband Dr. Les Morgan, are medical missionaries in Bangladesh. They were in Houston and attended St. Philip while their late son received treatment at M.D. Anderson.

We arrived back in Bangladesh on 9/11. I think we're just now about fully over the jetlag :) -- propelling oneself 12 hours into the future does something to you! Now we live in time that fills your dreams and ours.

We saw in the "Philip-Eye" where part of the Peacemaking Offering to be collected on World Communion Sunday is to go to our work here in Bangladesh. I really liked the way the article referred to us as "long-time friends of St. Philip" and that our work is considered to be one of peacemaking, for at its heart, I feel that's what it is. It means so much to us to be kept close in the hearts and prayers of your congregation.

Fondly, Cindy

currently Moderator of the Presbyterian Women of St. Philip, serves as an office volunteer, and is active in the Wednesday Night Live program. She is a retired high school counselor, elementary school teacher, middle school employee and currently a volunteer in many Houston organizations in areas such as: professional, literacy, and assistance to the retarded. She has two children and four grandchildren.

Wesley Vestal, Elder: Wesley has served on the Belonging Commission, working on visitor and member outreach; served on the Fellowship Commission, working on special events; and on a previous Nominating Committee. He currently serves as a 2nd-hour-volunteer assisting children during worship; and serves in other St. Philip areas of need such as landscaping, greeting, ushering, and as a worship liturgist. Wesley, and his wife Jenny are the parents of 3 daughters.

Respectfully submitted,

Congregational Nominating Committee members Sandra Cooper, Jane Lee, Marian Murphree, Sondra Sullivan, Ruthie Waldrop, Randy Steward, Sarah Cherrillo, David Fox, Bill Morris, Charles Lucas, and ad hoc member Bill Poe.

(from page 1)

leans on the affirming and enlightening rays of God.

The techniques used in the construction of this banner include fabric piecing, fused appliqué, machine embroidery, quilting, thread, and bead embellishment. Materials used include cotton material, bits of silk, Angelina fibers, tulle, beads, and sequins.

St. Philip gratefully acknowledges this very special contribution of Hope Wilmarth. For those who are interested in seeing more of Hope's work, she has two juried pieces in local galleries: 18 Hands Gallery in The Heights and at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft in the Museum District.

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. Call the church office or drop by to sign up.

Mark Your Calendar for Future PrimeTimer Activities

November 5th -- Sugar Land Museum of Natural Science
Exhibit - "The Chronicles of Narnia"
Permanent Museum Displays
December 10th -- Christmas Party at the Hallmark
December 17th -- Christmas Activity (TBA)

Trips Being Planned for 2010

January 7th -- Holocaust Museum
February 13th -- Alley Theatre
March 27th -- Poe Picnic
April 1 -- Orange, Texas
Shangri La Botanical Garden,
Nature Center - Stark Museum
May -- Texas City -- Miniature Train Museum,
City Tour

Justice for Children

What a pleasure it was to hear the Reverend Emily Wilmarth preach on Peacemaking Sunday! She brought a very significant message to us about the victimization of children through war and geopolitics. Thank you, Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, for an inspiring worship service, for bringing Emily here and for commissioning that beautiful Peacemaking banner designed and executed by Emily's mother, Hope Wilmarth.

Emily's message about the effects of war and controversy on the very least among us - small children - was poignant and pointed. We are called upon to minister to the needs of these victims who are powerless to help themselves. Here at St. Philip we are already reaching out to children in our community through the hunger program of *Kids' Meals* (for those who do not qualify for the free school lunch) and through *Presbyterian Childrens Homes & Services* (for those who are abused or abandoned by parents), and for homeless families through *SEARCH*.

Now we are ready to reach out to those children throughout the world who are subjected to poverty, disease and starvation through a new program at St. Philip beginning November 7, 2009 - and we can do so through the members of this congregation ages 9 through 100.

The Session has agreed that we will become a satellite operation of *KIDS AGAINST HUNGER* - a volunteer-driven effort to package and distribute humanitarian relief. Believing that every individual can make a difference in the fight against national and global hunger, this program was created by one man who saw a need and determined to do something meaningful about it. It provides simple, nutritious meals in dry form that can be reconstituted with boiling water. This program has been the subject of a PBS documentary, and has been written up in major national publications. Begun in Minnesota, it now has satellites across the nation. St. Philip will operate the first satellite in Houston.

A special food mixture suitable for children suffering from starvation and malnutrition was developed by the *Kids Against Hunger Foundation*, Cargills, Pillsbury, General Mills, and Archer Daniels Midland. This food mixture can reverse starvation, restore health and improve childrens' mental and physical alertness, and has been proven to do so. It is packaged in plastic bags, then shipped to areas where it can safely distributed to those who need it, in this country and elsewhere. Packaging is where we come in. The *Kids Against Hunger Foundation* is sending someone to teach us how to operate the packaging process efficiently, and then we will be on our own.

Our start up cost is \$8000, which includes all the equipment necessary to package meals and the cost of travel for the "coach" from the foundation. The Property Commission is donating the modifications to the storage space behind the dining room to accommodate the shipping pallets. With this

(continued on page 5)

(from page 4)

beginning we will package our first 30,000 meals. The cost of subsequent food supplies is much less than the initial cost, and will be determined by how many meals we want to package. The Staff Commission, the Education Commission and the Fellowship Commission have all allocated funds from their budgets to this project, and individual Elders on Session and Staff members have made personal financial donations. It is hoped that the other commissions will be able to allocate funds to help reach our start-up costs. This project for the entire St. Philip community is being enthusiastically supported by Session. Our first packing session is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2009, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The Fellowship Commission is providing lunch for the participants.

At the Session retreat last January, the Session felt that attention this year needed to be focused on (1) developing a vibrant youth program, (2) utilizing our facility in a way that serves Christ's mission and (3) clarifying our outreach objectives. While this project brings together people of all ages, it also meets all those goals. It is especially suited to youth, scout groups and other service organizations, and is an important way for our children and young people to learn about the needs of others and to make their personal contribution. *Kids Against Hunger* not only nourishes hungry children, it also nourishes the spirit of the volunteers who come together to do their part in the battle against hunger.

If you and/or your children are interested in participating in this project, contact our Mission Coordinator, George Pope, at (832) 373-7534.

Wednesday Night Live

Dinner at 5:45 pm

Bible study of "Luke" led by Bill Poe 6:15 to 6:50

7:00 to 8:00 pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal with Justin

October 7

"Kids Meals". We will be making sandwiches for pre K children who would not have a noon meal.

We will be making the sandwiches,

Kids, come and decorate bags for the lunches to go into when they are finally put together.

October 14

All the items that have been collected for the Seafarer's boxes need to be sorted.

. Children will be a big help in this task or they may continue to decorate bags for the lunches!

October 21

All the Seafarer's boxes will be packed.

Children can help with this or

they may continue decorating the bags for lunches!

October 28

With Halloween just around the corner, we plan to do Pumpkin Painting or you can decorate bags!

We hope folks with children will attend the WNL after Bible Study and help with the above tasks!

Welcome New Members...

Lad Perenyi and Laureen Suba-Perenyi were members of First Presbyterian Church in Houston for 12 years and joined St. Philip in July 2009. Lad and Laureen have been married for 25 years and settled in Houston in 1986. Their son Daniel graduated from St. John's School in May and is now attending UT. Lad is a corporate lending officer at Trustmark Bank. Laureen retired from JPMorgan two years ago, where she was a group manager in corporate trust and worked for 20 years as an international lender specializing in Latin America.

Lad's undergraduate degree is from the University of California, while Laureen graduated from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.

Laureen is a director of The Nehemiah Center, an after school education program for at-risk children. She is the former chair for the Houston chapter of World Vision's Women of Vision, an advocacy group for disadvantaged women and children in developing countries. Laureen volunteers at Operation ID, an agency devoted to helping Houston's homeless and ex-offenders obtain their Texas identification and birth certificates. She is enrolled in Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Houston extension program, where she is working toward a Master of Divinity degree, and is also pursuing a certification in therapeutic yoga. Laureen has served as an usher and confirmation class leader, and continues to lead adult Bible study classes.

Lad in his spare time can be found on the golf course, working on photography projects (where he prefers traditional black and white materials) or spending time with Daniel on the ski slopes. He has served as a Stephen Minister, as an adult Christian education instructor, and as an advocate for transparency in church governance.

They live in Bellaire with their much loved dog, Zéphir.

Youth News

It's new. It's different. It's the place to be Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30. **Cafe SPY** features hot chocolate, great coffees, yummy goodies and stimulating discussion on the theme "Faith Questions". Sunday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 is **SPY Bistro**. Join Cindy and Justin for fun, games, activities. Future events include CROP Walk, Kids Against Hunger, Bowling Night, Overnighter, mall madness and more.

Many thanks to those who participated in our **T-Shirt fundraiser**. Your contributions will help send youth to mission trips, conclaves, Cho-Yeh and Trienniums. You may pick up your t-shirt on in the gathering area on Sunday morning.

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

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

October 18 - 5:00 to 7:00 pm in room 105

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

Bible Study

Room 204 in the Education Building

Led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Wadrop

Church and Society

Room 201 in the Education Building

"A Call for Social Justice"

A Four Part Film Series sponsored by the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee

October 11

"Life on an Indian Reservation"

led by Mary Sinderson

October 18

"Working in a Coal Mine"

led by Bill Morris

October 25

"Same-Sex Parenting"

led by Warren Wallingford

Lectionary Readings

October 11, 2009

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 23:1-9, 16,17; Psalm 22:1-15

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 18, 2009

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

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

Seasons of Change

Annual Luncheon and Educational Forum
The Seniors Place becomes **Amazing Place**

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

River Oaks Country Club

10:00 am

Educational Forum with

Mary M. Kenan Owens, Psy.D., psychologist

Paul E. Schulz, M.D., neurologist

Free admission, limited seating

Call 713 850-1563 for reservations

Luncheon to follow

with keynote speaker, Thomas Cole

"The Present Moment: Stories and Lives"

For luncheon tickets, contact Laurel Thompson at
 713 850-1563 or lthompson@seniorsplace.org

Dated Material

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