

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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16 November 2009

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Pastor

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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
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Alternative Christmas Market Happens November 22

Central - St. Philip Dialogue by Gene McKelvey

One year ago the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church voted to sell its property located at 3788 Richmond Avenue in Houston, TX. A congregational discernment survey indicated that merger with another Presbyterian church was considered to be a serious option.

Following a series of preliminary conversations, the session of Central Presbyterian Church voted to enter into discussions regarding a "Plan of Union" with St. Philip Presbyterian Church. The session of St. Philip responded in the affirmative and merger committees were formed representing each congregation.

Those representing Central Presbyterian Church are Cathy Patterson, Ellen MacDonald, Winston Crowder, Jennifer Blake-Mahmud, Mark Clemmons and C.J. Miller with Bill Litchfield serving as Chairperson.

The committee from St. Philip includes Bebe Burns, James Cooper, Fort Flowers, Cathy Hunt, Casey Lambright, Jane Larkin, Bill Morris, and Kay Vick. Gene McKelvey is the Chair.

Members of Central Presbyterian Church have visited our worship services and attended the annual St. Philip BBQ, Rally Day activities and other events on the St. Philip campus. Similarly, the St. Philip group has worshiped at Central and visited their facilities on several occasions.

On the first of November both groups met to discuss a Draft Plan of

(continued on page 3)

Looking for a gift for the person who "has everything", someone you want to remember or a special person in your life? The Alternative Christmas Market provides the perfect opportunity AND you get to help some great causes at the same time. Your purchase can provide inoculations for children, critical medicines to a clinic, food for a child, emergency services in our community, assistance to a family in need, help for a disaster victim or a hot meal for a homeless person.

Our gifts may be in honor or remembrance of others. In either case they serve as a reminder of the gift we receive in Christ. This year's market is bigger and more diverse than ever as a dozen agencies participate.

Look for opportunities to serve those in need through donations to CCSC and for special items from their Sunshine Resale Shop. The Women's Home again offers their delicious Texas pecans and other gift items. SERRV, one of the first alternative fair trade organizations, will have a variety of items from around the world for sale.

Help SEARCH in their ministry to the homeless. The Heifer Project offers the opportunity to purchase a farm animal that will improve the quality of life for the hungry of the world. Gifts to Kids Meals and Kids Against Hunger benefit the youngest in our society. You will have the opportunity to help two Presbyterian programs continue their outreach: Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Consider supporting medical needs with gifts to Medical Benevolence

The market takes place in the Gathering Area on November 22 before and after worship. Bring your shopping list; the selection is huge and you will surely find the perfect gift for each person on your list.

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: none known

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

In Iraq/Afgahanistan: **Travis Kever**, Pam and Frank Kever's son; **Robert Phillips**, Martha & Jim Braswell's nephew. **Ken Evans**, father of Tamara Arlinghaus is home from Iraq for good.

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Joan Boelens and family** on the death of her brother-in-law, Larry Glass, on November 1.

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 !!

Wednesday Night Live concludes for the year this Wednesday, November 17.

Twelve members of St. Philip served breakfast to the homeless on November 15 as part of the Lord of the Streets (LOTS) program at Trinity Episcopal Church. Many thanks to **Beth** and **Al Atkinson**, **Skip Britton**, **Janet** and **Don Davis**, **Susan** and **Robert Estill**, **Ruth Ewing**, **Jo Helland**, **Carolyn Keeble**, **Tom Lewis**, and **Mary Louise Wade**. If you would like to make this short term commitment, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2384 to take part in this gratifying project. Information about our dates in 2010 will be available soon.

Share the spirit of giving at Christmas with families less fortunate. Please bring the items as listed below to the boxes near the library: December 6 - canned food, December 13 - new socks for children and adults, December 20 - new underwear for children and adults.

PrimeTimers, Save the Dates: December 10th is the Christmas Party Luncheon at the Hallmark December 17th Sue Howard has planned for us to see Disney's 3D "A Christmas Carol" and have lunch at Café Adobe. More details to follow.

The Philip-Eye will be published on November 30, December 14, 2009 and January 4, 2010. **(Please note that there will be only one newsletter in December.)** 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,

Last month, we celebrated our Stewardship Season with a delicious, joyful, and informative luncheon on Reformation Sunday, and the dedication of our financial pledges and Time & Talent Commitments on All Saints' Sunday, November 1st. Our theme this year was "*Varieties of Gifts, Varieties of Service - One Spirit.*"

Many of you have responded to the invitation to submit your pledges, or estimates of giving, and Time & Talent Commitments for 2010. As of November 15th, we have received **131** financial pledges totaling **\$988,592**, or about **85%** of our goal. The experience of past years leads us to expect that about another 50 financial pledges remain to come in, and so the news appears to be good, so far!

Nevertheless, it is very important that those who have not yet sent in their pledges of money, time, and talent do so as quickly as possible, so that your officers can plan for the coming year. Members of our Stewardship Commission are already in the process of making telephone calls to those we haven't yet heard from, to encourage them to send their information in quickly.

These are exciting times in the life of our church, and you need to be a part of what is going on!

See you in church!

In Christ, **Bill**

Changes in the Choir Loft

Construction is ongoing in the choir loft as preparations are made for the arrival of our new pipe organ on January 3.

And until the organ is installed and up and running, we will be enjoying piano music as a part of our worship experience and as accompaniment for our hymns.

Anticipating the arrival of our new organ, the electric Johannus organ was put on the market for sale. Last week we were truly blessed to find a willing buyer—Notre Dame Catholic Church in Sugar Land. It was carted away to its new home on Thursday and, although the prospect of Christmas without an organ is a sad one, we are glad that our "old" organ has found a such a good home, and eagerly anticipate our glorious new one!

(from page 1)

Consolidation between Central Presbyterian Church and St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Both pastors, Rev. Bill Poe and Rev. Howard Reed, were in attendance. Rev. Mike Cole, General Presbyter of New Covenant Presbytery, served as facilitator.

Discussions to refine the draft document are ongoing. A finalized Plan of Consolidation should be forthcoming. This proposal would then need to be approved by both sessions, each congregation, and New Covenant Presbytery.

Lectionary Readings

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

November 29, 2009

1st Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

December 6, 2009

2nd Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 13, 2009

3rd Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 20, 2009

4th Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:107
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Christmas Families

Christmas is just around the corner, and the Mission commission is already making plans to adopt fifteen families for Christmas through the Kid's Meals program that St. Philip also serves throughout the year.

This year the need is greater than ever. Here is the heart of the Christmas spirit. Please add these dates to your calendars and plan to be a part of this special project.

Christmas Families Schedule

November 22 – sign up

Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 – deliver your gifts to the church

December 12 and 13 – gifts delivered to families.

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Congratulations to **Kim and Paul Hoesl** on the birth of their son **Brandon Joseph Hoesl** on November 3.

Youth News

Café SPY Joined By Youth Choir

Have you checked out Café SPY and Youth Choir? Youth Choir meets from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. in the choir room. Café SPY meets in the youth room from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. Café SPY features hot chocolate, great coffees, yummy goodies and stimulating discussion on the theme "Faith Questions".

SPY Bistro

The Overnighter is coming! Mark Saturday, **November 21** on your calendars as the date of our Fall Overnighter. We will meet at 6:00 pm for dinner at a secret location to be announced. Dinner, games, all-night movies and More details are coming soon to your email inbox.

Thanksgiving Break: SPY will not meet on **November 29**. Enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend!

Mall Madness like you've never seen it before happens on Sunday, **December 9** and includes dinner at the Rain Forest Cafe. Meet Cindy at the Galleria in front of the fountain, lower level, at 4:00 pm. Shopping the mall like never before plus dinner. Pick up at 7:30 pm.

For more on youth meetings contact Cindy Pope at Cindy@saintphilip.net.

House of Tiny Treasurers

On Wednesday, November 11, Hope Wilmarth, her daughter Heather Burkhart, and Beverly Baker delivered 18 quilts, and 17 fleece blankets to the House of Tiny Treasurers. This is an accredited nursery school for children whose families are homeless. The families are living in various shelters while being trained for employment. The building which houses the offices and kitchen was badly damaged by hurricane Ike. We were happy to see that it is repaired, and looks like new. The cook was in the kitchen preparing tuna sandwiches and soup for the children's lunch, and the play yards were filled with happy children. This year the teachers and children have planted vegetables, and will eat them when they are harvested.

This is such a joyful and welcoming place, and we are glad that St. Philip is a part of it.

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.

And join us for monthly pot-luck supper on November 22 - 5:00 to 7:00 pm in room 105

November 22

Gratitude as a spiritual discipline

led by Brian Webster

November 29

Thanksgiving weekend - breakfast fellowship

December 6: Advent Study, Part I

December 13: Advent Study, Part II

December 20: Advent Study, Part III

Bible Study

Room 204 in the Education Building

A study of the book of Exodus

Led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop

Church and Society

Room 201 in the Education Building

"Living the Questions 3.0"

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!**

December

1 Karen Davis

2 Cathy Steward

5 Sherri Parker

5 Larry Dean

5 Donald Hess

6 Jean Stanley

7 Jim Lomax

7 Kristi Hebert

8 Larry Wright

8 Pat Guittard

9 Doris Cantrell

10 Betty Moreton

11 Martha Braswell

12 Pam Keever

12 Bruce Johnson

13 Susan Strong

13 Doug Hannah

13 Margaret King

14 Nicholas Arlinghaus

15 Richard Dong

15 Elaine Caldwell

15 Al Atkinson

17 Edith Puddephatt

18 Barbara Glenn

21 Bill Haycraft

23 Charles Paine

23 Cathy Moss

24 Carol Johnston

25 Chris Evans

26 Lynn Ketcham

28 Jane English

29 Vicki McKay

29 Jay Attar

29 Linda Peavy

29 David Lindsay

Dated Material

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