

# PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church  
Volume 53, Number 22

Houston, Texas  
2 November 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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**Peter Ramadan**  
Custodian

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## Kids Against Hunger, Houston Volunteer This Saturday

This Saturday is it! Food components, equipment and packing supplies are arriving this week at St. Philip in preparation for our first Kids Against Hunger - Houston packing event. We are honored that the founder of the program, Richard Proudfit, is personally coming to Houston to welcome us as a satellite of this worldwide hunger program. Mr. Proudfit and the director of satellites for the Foundation will be training a team of volunteer leaders on Friday so that we can be efficient and knowledgeable about the program and the details of the operation when we start up on Saturday.

The Property Commission has prepared an area for the packing operation that utilizes space behind the kitchen next to the dining room. The Mission Commission wants to thank the Session and individual Elders and Staff members for their support, and the Property Commission for its contributions and assistance in the planning for this venture. We also want to thank the Staff Commission, the Education Commission, the Fellowship Commission and the Belonging Commission for their financial support of the venture. However, this venture could never have gotten off the ground had it not been for the vision and hard work of Elder Sandra Cooper in presenting and organizing this project. So we send a special thanks to Sandra for her efforts in promoting a mission/outreach program that involves the whole congregation.

Our initial output from this first packing operation will be supplied to the Houston Food Pantry, which intends to use it in their Buddy-Backpack program for hungry children. Another portion of our output will go to Kids' Meals, a program to which St. Philip contributes volunteer as well as financial support. Both of these programs provide food during the weekdays to children who would not otherwise get a breakfast or lunch (and sometimes both). Those children in need will be discretely provided packages of food from our operation for weekend consumption when the regular programs do not operate. Future output will go to overseas hunger sites. If you or you and your family want to volunteer to participate in the Kids Against Hunger, Houston satellite program, please contact the Rev. Dr. George Pope, Mission Coordinator, at 832 373-7534.

**WHO: Persons between the ages of 9 to 100**

**WHEN: Saturday, November 7, 2009**

**TIME: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm; lunch will be served by the Fellowship Commission**

**WHERE: St. Philip P.C. - the dining room in the Administration Building**

Visit our website @  
[www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)

### Lectionary Readings

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

### Celebrating All Saints' Day

During our worship yesterday, we remembered those members of our congregation who have died since our last All Saints' celebration: **Wayne Glenn, Rosemary Schwartzel, Leah McRoberts, Pat Walker, Chuck Fortney, Ellen Red, Herb Scott, and Carl Wischmeyer**; and these dear friends of our congregation: **William Ross Forbes, Azaleigh McGinnis and Sybil Dray**.

### Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: **Dick Weber** at Memorial City

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

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

### 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 !!

#### **Volunteer Opportunity with Lord of the Streets:**

The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, November 15. We gather in the St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 am to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and we are back at the church by 9:00 am in time for Sunday school. Fifteen volunteers are needed. If November 15 is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying mission project.

**Many, many thanks to Ruth and Dick Weber** for doing the Presbyterian weekend meals delivery on Saturday, October 31. One of the many outreach programs of St. Philip, we are responsible for delivering meals to shut-ins in central Houston on the 5th Saturday of each month that has one. If you would like to make a short term commitment, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to become involved. January 30, 2010 is our next delivery date.

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

**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.

**The Philip-Eye will be published** on November 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 Your Interim Associate Pastor:

We are approaching a busy time of year in the life of the church. The Education Commission would like to remind you of a few important events.

1. Children and Youth Protection Policy Training – Sunday, November 22, 2009 from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. This class is offered to those people who work with our infants, children and youth. Everyone working with these age groups needs to attend. We appreciate that many of you have attended another training as a part of your job or volunteer efforts, but unless you have been trained using our Policy, you must attend the class. If you came to the class offered at church last year you do not need to come this year. The class will be held in the Computer Room in the new building.
2. As a part of our Advent celebration, you are invited to bring special items to church during the December Sundays of Advent (6, 13, and 20). Items collected will be distributed to agencies supported by St. Philip. Items to be collected include children's socks, children's underwear and canned food.
3. Additionally, Advent booklets will be available for your personal and family use. Booklets include scriptures, songs, and ways you can remember this time in the church year. We will distribute these booklets in the coming weeks.
4. Mo-Ranch Family Camp registration will begin in the coming weeks. We will be at Mo-Ranch June 10-13, 2010. Please put the date on your calendar right now!

Please make sure to read upcoming newsletters and bulletin announcements for more details. If you have any questions, please contact Education Commission chairperson Mike Alexander, Interim Associate Pastor Kristy Forbes Vits, or Children's Ministry Director, Judy Gunn.

Kristy

### Attention Women of St. Philip

The Women's Retreat will be held at Cho-Yeh Camp and Conference Center February 12-14. This is a wonderful time to relax and enjoy an inter-generational weekend with the women of St. Philip. The cost including four meals with 1 or 2 occupying a room is \$145.00 and 3 or 4 in a room is \$123.00. Please sign up by calling the church to reserve a place. A \$50 deposit is due by December 1. Scholarships are available by contacting Kristy Vits.

And if you are interested in serving on the planning team, contact Kristy.

## From the Music Department

All St. Philip Youth, grades 6-12, who love to sing: the St. Philip Youth Singers have begun! We meet from 9:15-9:45 am in the Music Department (second floor, above the Main Office) on Sundays. No prior experience necessary, just a love of music!

The St. Philip Adult Choir is beginning preparations for a wonderful Christmas season of singing at worship, featuring festive sacred works by Vaughan Williams and Vivaldi sung with orchestra, as well as a variety of seasonal favorites. We rehearse Wednesdays, 7 to 9:00 pm in the Music Room in the Administration Building.

Questions? Contact Dr. Justin Smith, Interim Director of Music, at justin@saintphilip.net or eroica999@gmail.com.

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## St. Philip 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 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".

### SPY Bistro

Join the group on Saturday, November 14 for the greatest Overnighter ever! You'll be getting an email flyer soon with all the details. Mall Madness like you've never seen it before happens on Sunday, November 22 and includes dinner at the Rain Forest Cafe. For more on youth meetings contact Cindy Pope at Cindy@saintphilip.net.

### SPY Meeting to Serve at Kids Against Hunger - November 7!!!

SPY will not meet on November 8. Instead, youth will participate in the first session of Kids Against Hunger on Saturday, November 7 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Give a couple of hours of your morning and make a difference.

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## Catch the Jingle Bell Express!

Christian Community Service Center is ready to help 3,000 children and their families celebrate the joy of Christmas! Don't miss your chance to jump on board!

Location: Bellaire United Methodist Church; 4417 Bellaire (at Newcastle)

Sort & Set Up: Tuesday-Thursday, December 8-10, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Organize toys, books and food packages!

Distribution: Friday-Saturday, December 11-12, 7:45 am to 1:00 pm.

Help parents "shop" for their children!

For more information contact 713-961-3993 or seasonal@ccschouston.com

## Hallelujah!

CORNER

Congratulations to **David Cook** and **Annie Gonzales** on their wedding on October 24, 2009. David is the son of **Dr. Nancy Cook**.

**Bill Slick** will be honored by the Salvation Army at its Annual Luncheon on November 3. Bill will receive the William Booth Award to recognize his more than 36 years of service with the Salvation Army of which he is a Director Emeritus of the National Advisory Board, Life Member and former chair of the Houston Area Board and Former Chair and current member of the Adult Rehabilitation Center Advisory Council.

**The Hunger Offering** received November 1 benefiting the food services programs of Interfaith Ministries totaled \$1,403.00. Thanks for your continued generosity.

**Stewardship 2010:** We are off to a great start for 2010's Stewardship Campaign. We have received 96 pledge cards for a total of \$638,552.00. Thanks to all for getting your pledge cards and Time & Talent forms in yesterday.

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## Seafarer Boxes are Ready for Christmas

The magic of WNL happened on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Over two dozen people gathered after dinner and Bible study to help organize and pack over 85 Seafarer Boxes.

They packed all of them in one hour. Thanks for all of the items you collect and bring to the Clearing House all year long for the Seafarers.

So remember: Look for deals - give-aways and items you believe would be enjoyed by Seafarers from Third World Countries. Bring them to the mailroom at the office labeled for Seafarers. If in doubt - still bring them. We will send them to where they can best be used.

Beth Henrickson knitted 34 watch caps this year for our Seafarer boxes. So if you knit - we can get the pattern for you - we would love one or more - .... With 12 months for this project - let's make it happen. (If you don't knit - how about buying a knitted cap, socks or T-Shirt and donate it to the Seafarers.)

*Sue Shirley-Howard and Janet Davis*

## Seasons of Caring Luncheon – A Report

As members of the Board of Directors of Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers we want to report on the hugely successful Seasons of Caring fund-raising luncheon held recently. The luncheon this year honored St. Philippian, Jane Larkin. St. Philip members participated in the campaign, supported the luncheon, and many honored Jane by their presence at the event.

Interface, a counseling center located on our campus and begun with the support of the St. Philip congregation about 35 years ago, continues to receive our benevolence dollars, much of which goes to assist persons who are unable to pay the full cost of their counseling service. St. Philip's support is appreciated. Thank you, St. Philip!

*Susan Estill, Sara Jean Jackson, Charles Lucas*

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## Alternative Christmas Market Set for November 22

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 will be bigger and more diverse than ever. These eleven agencies will participate: Christian Community Service Center, Heifer Project International, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Kids Against Hunger, Kid's Meals, Medical Benevolence Foundation, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, SEARCH, SERRV and The Women's Home. Shopping areas will be set up in the Gathering Area on Sunday, November 22 before and after worship.

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## 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 15 and 22 – sign up

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

December 12 and 13 – gifts delivered to families.

## Reflections on Stewardship

This, the last in our Stewardship series, features the work of the Budget Council and the Finance Committee. These two groups manage the budget and oversee the finances of the church.

### The Budget Council – Creating the Annual Budget

Early in the fall, our Commissions are asked to submit to the Treasurer their budgets for the following year. Each Commission usually dedicates at least one meeting to this process, which includes both an evaluation of current programs and spending and plans for future programs and their costs.

After receiving the budget proposals from the Commission, the Treasurer calls a meeting of the Budget Council, a group consisting of a representative, usually the Chair, of each Commission, the Treasurer and the pastoral staff. With guidance from the Treasurer, they wrestle with the financial needs of the church and the realities of the potential budget scenarios given possible levels of giving. After serious deliberation and prayer, this group develops a proposed budget for the following year and recommends it to the Session. Upon approval by the Session, it is this budget that drives the annual Stewardship Campaign.

Early in the New Year, after nearly all of the pledges have been received, the Budget Council convenes again to evaluate the proposed budget in light of the results of the Stewardship Campaign and information on other sources of income. At this time, the final annual budget is created and taken to the Session for approval. It is this budget that governs the spending for the year.

### The Finance Committee – Watching Over the Accounts

A few years ago, the Session created the Finance Committee. The members of this committee, chaired by a Session member, bring expertise in accounting, finance and business. They meet with the Treasurer on a quarterly basis to review our accounts and discuss issues related to the long-term financial health of the church. When necessary, the Finance Committee makes recommendations to the Session regarding the management of our funds. This committee also nominates the candidate for Treasurer, a position voted on by the Session.

## Welcome New Members...

**Don Padgett** transferred his membership from Catonsville Presbyterian Church in Catonsville, MD. to St. Philip on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Born in Goose Creek, TX, now Baytown, Don graduated from local high school, Robert E. Lee. He attended Baylor University and completed his degree in Pharmacy at the University of Houston. With a passion for foreign languages, Don returned to UH to study Spanish where he received his Master's Degree which enabled him to combine the use of Spanish with his pharmacy practice in Houston.

In 1979, Don moved to Amarillo to direct the pharmacy in St. Anthony's Hospital. There he was active in the Westminster Presbyterian Church. It was with the Mission Committee's encouragement that he accepted the call to foreign mission work.

At the age of 46, he left the active practice of pharmacy to take a job with the Presbyterian Church (USA) to go to Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo), Africa, to direct a large medical depot in the center of the country to supply the mission hospitals of the province with not only purchased medicines but also donated ones from U. S. pharmaceutical companies. Again, he had to learn a language for this job and went to northern Quebec to learn French. After four years of living with no electricity, sporadic running water and little outside communication, he returned to the U.S. and worked his last 16 years before retirement with Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA World Health).

Since returning to Houston after 30 years, he has been happy to reacquaint himself with the city, cultural events and restaurants, including travels to places in Texas not visited in many years. He enjoys reading, as well as keeping up with old friends both here and in the DR Congo, where he visits at least once per year.

Don looks forward to working with the Mission Commission at St. Philip. Please let him know what a welcome addition he is to our congregation.

**Diana Fields** joined St. Philip on September 27, 2009, having transferred her membership from South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena, TX. She was invited to St. Philip by her friend Sally Wickes.

Diana grew up in East Houston, went to high school in Galena Park and on to San Jacinto Junior College. She has been employed by American General Life Insurance for 33 years and works as a fraud examiner.

She spends her spare time with her mom, who lives with her, and enjoys knitting and reading. Her dogs, Bassy and Ducky, are a special part of her household.

Diana says she is excited to be a member at St. Philip where the people are so friendly. We're excited that Diana has joined us!

## Housing for Organ Installers

The Organ Committee is seeking housing for the men who will be coming to install the organ in January. While several people have stepped up and offered rooms, we still need some more willing hosts. Hosting can be for a period of two weeks or four weeks. Each man needs a private room. It would be especially helpful if anyone has a garage apartment that they could offer. This does not have to be a member of St. Philip.

Additionally we are seeking the loan of a car or van that will seat 5 people and be available for up to four weeks.

We are very grateful to those who have already volunteered. If you are able to help out with these needs, please contact a member of the Organ Committee: Robin Angly, Al Atkinson, Matthew Dirst, Elizabeth Duerr, Susan Estill, Jeanie Flowers, David Fox, Gene McKelvey, Justin Smith or Miles Smith.

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## Training Required

In 2008 St. Philip approved a children's protection policy. All adults that work with children and youth are required to take this training. The training is valid for three years. The education commission is offering a training on November 22 at 9:00 am for those people that have not been trained that are new to teaching, helpers during Second Hour, volunteers that wish to help with children at Mo-Ranch, or other activities sponsored by the church.

The training will be completed by 10:15 am. Childcare will be available until Church School begins at 9:30 a.m. The class will be held in the computer room downstairs in the new building.

Please sign up for the class if you would like to volunteer with children and youth. Call or email Kristy Vits at [kristy@saintphilip.net](mailto:kristy@saintphilip.net) to reserve a place or if you have further questions.

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## A Commendation and A Recommendation

The members of the Belonging Commission are pleased to see so many of you wearing your nametags on Sunday mornings! It really helps us to know one another.

Our recommendation is that you wear your tags at all church events. On Reformation Sunday, for example, there was a congregational luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Many left their tags on the magnetic board in the narthex instead of wearing them to the luncheon.

When memorial services and other events are held at St. Philip where persons from the community attend, it's a great help to let visitors know who we are.

Thank you for your continued efforts in making St. Philip the welcoming congregation it is.

**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 join us for monthly pot-luck supper on 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 Waldrop

**Church and Society**

Room 201 in the Education Building

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

Dated Material

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