

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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29 December 2008

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Pastor

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Associate Co-Pastor

Rev. Shawn M. Coons
Associate Co-Pastor

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Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Jack Boelens
Parish Associate

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Margaret Dement
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Keith

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Susan

**Wish You a Blessed Christmas
and a New Year Filled with Joy!**

Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized/Healthcare: **Bill Boren** at The Hampton.

Recuperating: **Dick Weber**

At home: **Herb Scott, Penny Vieau**

In Iraq: **Ken Evans**, Tamara Arlinghaus' father

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Jane** and **Gary Whitney** on the death of Jane's mother, **Gloria Anderson**, on December 18 in Detroit; to **Lad Perenyi and family** on the death of his father, **Lad Perenyi, Jr.** on December 27th; and to **the family of Everett Morgan** who lost his courageous battle with cancer on December 27th.

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 Apostle's Creed for Today*, by Justo L. Gonzales. Get your copy from Dan Flowers. Grab a sandwich and join us!

Attention PrimeTimers: On Thursday, January 8, 2009, a trip is planned to visit the Museum of Funeral History. The museum is a fascinating and unusual place. The cost is \$5.00 per person. The group will then go on to the Potatoe Patch for lunch—on your own. Please sign up in the Reception office or call 713 622-4807.

Sign up for Mo-Ranch: Registration forms are available in the Narthex and in the Church office. With questions, contact Jeanie Flowers at 713 527-8696 or jeanief3431@sbcxglobal.net. **Deadline for registration is January 5, 2009.**

Volunteer opportunity, Lord of the Streets (LOTS): The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, January 11. We gather in the St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 am to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and are back at St. Philip by 9:00 am in time for Sunday School. 12 to 15 volunteers are needed. If you would like to plan ahead, we have six dates in 2009: Jan. 11, March 15, May 17, July 12, Sept. 20, and Nov. 15. If January 11 is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this most gratifying mission project.

The Philip-Eye will be published on January 12 and 26, 2009. 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 Associate Pastor:

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Why am I writing about Christmas when January is almost upon us? Not because I want to get an early start on next year but because Christmas is still happening. That's right! If we followed the commercial Christmas season then it would start in the late summer when Hallmark stores put out their ornaments, and it would end on December 26th when "Post-Christmas Sales" begin.

But in the church Christmas begins on December 25th and continues until Epiphany on January 6th. These are the real twelve days of Christmas. So it's ok to keep playing your Christmas music and leave your Christmas decorations up. You can also still send Christmas cards and have them arrive before Christmas is over!

This is also a really good time to focus on the real meaning of Christmas without the stress and pressure of holiday parties, planning and gift-giving. Jesus coming into our world is something that needs to be celebrated and remembered more than one day a year. In fact, it is something we should give thanks to God for every day!

If you still haven't finished your "twelve days of Christmas" shopping here is the current total cost to get your true love all those gifts: \$21,080.10! The most expensive gift is "seven swans a-swimming" at a cost of \$5,600 and the cheapest gift is "three French hens" at \$40. Check out all the prices at www.pncchristmaspriceindex.com!

Shawn

January Hunger Offering

The recipient of our January 4th hunger offering is the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC), an agency with which we have long been affiliated. We have a strong interest in and commitment to CCSC, both in terms of benevolence dollars and a wealth of volunteer participation.

St. Philip is one of 42 churches in the Southwest and inner city Houston who combine support and efforts to serve the poor, hungry, homebound, the elderly, persons with AIDS, and those otherwise in need while respecting their religious, ethnic and cultural differences.

All of CCSC's service areas are volunteer-driven and more volunteers are always welcomed! We invite your dollars to support the hunger ministries of CCSC as we receive our January offering.

Wednesday Night LIVE! will resume beginning Wednesday, January 14th. Join us for fellowship, for dinner from 6:00-6:45, for worship at 6:45, and for workshops at 7:00!

Welcome New Member...

Cletus Johnson transferred his membership from Central Presbyterian in Austin, Texas, to St. Philip on November 9. He moved to Houston to be near his brother who has recently undergone a kidney transplant.

Cletus, with his three brothers and four sisters, grew up in Boonville, Missouri. He is a graduate of the College of the Ozarks and the University of Missouri. He also did graduate work at the University of North Texas in Denton. An active participant in church activities all his life, he has sung in choirs and has served as both deacon and elder, along with being part of many committees.

Currently an art teacher at Jack Yates High School, Cletus has been an elementary art teacher, college art teacher, art teacher for community programs at Austin Community College, residence hall director, director of residence life, church camp program director, camp arts and crafts director, camp cook, church youth director/coordinator and legislative correspondent. Wow! This guy has been busy! Cletus says that making art, looking at and thinking about art, reading and singing are some of the things that take up his "spare" time. Chances are you won't sit by Cletus in church unless you sing in the choir, but make it a point to introduce yourself and welcome him personally. We are so pleased that he has chosen St. Philip to be his church home.

Sunday School Classes

The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Meets in Room 200

Exploring Worship

This fall the SPa class experienced a variety of different worship services.

On January 4th and 11th we will be exploring our own ideas of what worship is and what it could be.

Church & Society

Meets in Room 201

Art at St. Philip

On Jan. 4th Bill Camfield will be joined by Dee Wolff, the Houston artist who gave St.

Philip 10 paintings and 1 ceramic triptych that grace the passageway to the gathering space and two niches in the Narthex.

Bill will talk about selected artworks in the church; Dee will talk about her work and take questions.

Bible Study

Meets in Room 204

A study of Genesis

led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop.

Youth Sunday School

All Junior High (6th-8th grades) and Senior High youth (9th-12th grades) are invited to join us Sunday mornings in the youth rooms for a study called "Claim the Life".

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Congratulations to **Judith Hoitt** who was recently named the new chief of the Houston Area Library Automated Network.

The Christmas Joy Offering received on December 21st totaled \$2,923.00 and the **Christmas Eve Offering** benefiting the Minister's Discretionary Fund totaled \$5,612.20. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Congregation Meeting Sunday, January 4, 2009

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 4 at the 11:00 am service for the purpose of electing an elder to fill a two-year unexpired term.

The Congregational Nominating Committee nominates **Bob Coyle** for this position. Bob is a lifelong Presbyterian and has been a member of St. Philip for many years. He has served as an elder and for a number of years assisted with the two-year olds in Sunday School, where he became known as "Teacher Bob." Bob is currently an enthusiastic choir member. In 1995 he retired after working for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for 30 years and has since become a realtor. He and his wife, Marty, have 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

Mystery of the Missing Crosses

St. Philip members who had classes in Room 16 before the recent renovations may remember the "Wall of Crosses" that hung on one side of the entrance in that room. The crosses were the idea of Nan Schissler, who gave some of the first ones that hung there. Church members added others over a few years time, until there were about fifteen. When renovations began and all furnishings were removed from the classrooms, the crosses were taken down, wrapped in paper, and placed in a cardboard box. The box stayed in the old parlor for a period of time, but then disappeared, and we have been unable to find them.

If anyone knows who removed the box, where it was placed (for safekeeping or storage?), would you please come forward? Call Karen or any member of the Property Commission and we will be happy to collect the crosses and hang them again.

Youth (and Parents) Group

This Sunday, January 4th, parents are invited to dinner and youth group starting at 5:45 in the youth room. We will be discussing the plans for the spring and summer calendar, including Youth Sunday and our summer Montreat trip. On January 11th, we will be sending Shawn and Carrie on their way to Florida with fun and meaningful activities.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January	15 Elizabeth Moreno
1 Ben Coons	15 Margaret Fair
2 Leah McRoberts	16 William Howard
3 Rollie McGinnis	17 Casey Lambright
3 Sandra Cooper	17 Sarah Ajak
3 Amy Irick	18 Stan Brandenberger
5 Bob Stanley	18 Carol Junkin
5 Nina Lambright	20 Nelda Simmons
5 Jennifer Jones	21 Dan Flowers
6 Tim Baker	21 Mike Tomforde
7 Van Rathgeber	21 Jennifer Kirk
7 Alex Williams	22 Cathy Arlinghaus
9 Doug Williams	23 Janet Hess
10 Sheila Stegall	23 Stefan Ketcham
10 Tom Williams	23 Eleanor Grant
11 Rocky High	24 Leah Hirritter
12 Dee Manley	25 Lee Murphree
13 Cheryl Barker	27 Nancy Harwood
13 Peter Lippincott	29 Holly Han
13 Gentry Atkinson	30 Paul Purcell
13 Edward Atkinson	31 Frank Keever
15 John Hannah	

Ordination and Instillation of New Officers Sunday, January 11, 2009

On January 11, 2009 during the 11:00 am Service of Worship, the following will be ordained and installed as Elders, Class of 2011: **Mary Grace Carter, Judith Hiott, Karen McKibbon Morris, Brian Webster**, and youth elder, **Amy Frautschi**. The following have been ordained previously and will be installed: **Mike Alexander, Bebe Burns, Elizabeth Duerr**, and **Florence McKelvey**.

"Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large ... They shall serve faithfully as members of the session."

"It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge ... "(from the Book of Order 2005-2007)

At the same time, **James Cooper** will be installed to serve a three year term as Trustee.

Pray for these individuals as they assume these responsibilities for our church.

Lectionary Readings

January 4, 2009

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 6, 2009

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 11, 2009

Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 18, 2009

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 25, 2009

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Dated Material