

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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Houston, Texas
23 February 2009

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Pastor

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Pastor Emeritus

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Parish Associate

Rev. Gregory Crisp Han
Parish Associate

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Director of Music
Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist
Margaret Dement
Director of Youth Bells

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Director, Children's Ministries

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A Special Gift for Our Church Family

The Season of Lent Begins

We will observe the beginning of the Season of Lent with a special service of worship on Ash Wednesday, February 25th.

We will begin with a light meal in Fellowship Hall at 5:45 pm and then gather in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm for the service, which will include the Imposition of Ashes. The service will conclude about 7:00 pm.

March Hunger Offering

The March 1st hunger offering recipient is the House of Tiny Treasures (HTT), a licensed early childhood development center, serving homeless children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. HTT provides quality childcare services for those individuals attending employment education classes at SEARCH (the leading homeless service provider in our community). The program is open to any parent who is homeless and working or participating in a job or educational program.

Food and money collected at our church will be donated to support services delivered to these children including transportation to and from the center, nutritious meals and snacks, development assessment, etc. HTT also has volunteer opportunities for Teacher Assistants to work or play with young children and assist on field trips. More information is available at www.searchproject.org/hott.html.

Please be generous with your gifts on non-perishable food items suitable for young children and your monetary donations.

The Mark and Velma Freeman Scholarship was established in 2005. In his will, Mark left instructions and an endowment for the scholarship, which is to assist Saint Philip members and children of Saint Philip members with the expenses of post high school education. The terms of the will are observed and the funds will be used in a way to honor Mark and Velma Freeman and their high regard for education and this church family.

Mark and Velma Freeman came to Saint Philip Presbyterian Church in 1973. Both Mark and Velma were long time and faithful members of this church. Velma was an attractive woman who was an active member of the Presbyterian Women and had many friends there. Mark was a combat photographer in World War II, worked for 31 years for Southwestern Bell Telephone and when retired, traveled extensively. Mark and Velma had two sons, Peter and Stephen, and one daughter, Nancy. Mark was an ordained Elder and an active member at Saint Philip. At his death in 2005, his second wife, Francis Freeman, who is remembered with affection by our congregation, survived Mark.

Now is the time to apply for this scholarship. Application forms are available on the Saint Philip web site and in the church office. All applications must be received by May 1, 2009 and will be submitted to the committee for review. The review will be completed by June 1, 2009 and recipients will be notified. Applications for post high school education, including seminary and postgraduate work will be considered. This is a gift for our church family.

Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized/Healthcare: none known

At home: **Bill Boren, Chuck Fortney, Leah McRoberts, Herb Scott, Penny Vieau**

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

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Barbara Glenn and family** on the death of her husband, **Wayne Glenn**, on February 10, 2009.

Check These Announcements

The Session calls a meeting of the Congregation near the end of the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, March 1, 2009, for the purpose of acting on proposed changes to the Pastor's terms of call for 2009.

The Men's Fellowship offers to all men of the church a more intimate, informal opportunity for study, fellowship and service. We meet in the office Conference Room each Friday at noon for a BYO lunch followed with a presentation and discussion. Currently, we are reading *The Apostles Creed for Today*, by Justo L. Gonzales. Get your copy from Dan Flowers. Grab a sandwich and join us!

Volunteer Opportunity with Lord of the Streets (LOTS): The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, March 15. We gather in the St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 am to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and are back at the church by 9:00 am in time for Sunday School. We need 12 to 15 volunteers. If March 15 is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying mission project.

Hurricane IKE volunteer date: A group of us - the "St. Philip Disaster Team" - is scheduling a work group for Saturday, February 28. We will be working on a City of Galveston hurricane relief project. Volunteers are needed. Please call Sara Jean Jackson or Joyce Fox to let us know of your availability, your skill level, your willingness to work or help in other ways, your questions, your suggestions!

The Philip-Eye will be published on March 9 and 23. 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 Friends,

Uptown Houston has announced that reconstruction and widening of San Felipe near the church, between Post Oak Lane and Loop 610, will be beginning soon. You have probably noticed surveyor's stakes and paint marks on the street, and steel plates already covering some holes in the road.

Underground work is presently taking place on nights and weekends, especially in the area of San Felipe just west of the church, but those efforts will begin moving closer to us in coming weeks, and will last through a good portion of the rest of the year.

This will likely mean some traffic tie-ups and slow-downs, so you need to take those into consideration when coming to the church. Here are a couple of helpful hints:

- If you're coming from the west on San Felipe, you will be able to bypass the intersection of San Felipe and Post Oak Boulevard by turning left on Post Oak Lane and then turning right and coming through by the Q fitness club and Wells Fargo to Garretson Street, by the McDonalds and past the Hallmark to the church.

- Also coming from the west on San Felipe, you will soon be able to turn right on Post Oak Lane and go all the way to Ambassador Way, where you can turn left and cross Post Oak Boulevard by the Double Tree Hotel and come around the back of the hotel to reach the church.

- If you are coming from the south on Loop 610, take the U-turn at the San Felipe exit and turn right immediately in front of the 3DI Building, and then right again to Yia Yia Mary's and then to the church.

- The same route around the 3DI building and the restaurant will work if you are coming from the north on 610 and use the San Felipe exit, or if you are coming from the east on San Felipe.

We'll have to experience the reality of street reconstruction to know just how it might affect our programs and ministries, but we will also rejoice in the newly built and widened street when it is completed!

See you in church!

Welcome New Members...

Ben Dees and **Cindy Johnson** became members of the St. Philip congregation on Sunday, February 15. Ben is joining by transfer of letter from Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church in Crystal Lake, IL. Cindy joins by profession of faith. They are engaged to be married in the near future.

Ben was born in Paragould, Arkansas and moved to Crystal Lake at age 13. His parents, Sherri and David, reside there now, and his younger brother, Lawson, is a junior at Northern Illinois University. In high school, Ben played baseball and was a member of the band. He graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in civil engineering and is currently employed as a structural engineer with the Fluor Corp. At his former church, Ben sang in the choir and played drums at the contemporary worship service. He enjoys music of all genres, sports (watching and playing), reading, The Caribbean, and outdoor adventures.

Cindy is a native of Garden Grove, CA where she lived most of her life. She moved to Fort Dodge, IA with her family during her junior year in high school. She attended Iowa State University in Ames where she majored in business management and minored in sociology. She has worked in retail management since her senior year in college, having started out at Aeropostale and then moving on to Sears Holdings Corp. Currently, Cindy is employed by Kohl's Department Stores as assistant manager in the Pearland store. She comes from a large family of nine children: three brothers, three sisters, and two step-sisters. Cindy is a middle child, with a span of 24 years between her oldest and youngest siblings. Three of those siblings still reside in southern California, and the rest, including her parents, live in Fort Dodge, IA. Throughout her teen years, Cindy was involved in choir at high school and at church. She also enjoyed participating in the church food bank, and any other church services that helped the general public. In her free time, she enjoys shopping, surfing the internet, watching movies and catching up with family and friends.

What great interests and talents Cindy and Ben bring to St. Philip! They will be introduced to the congregation during the 11:00 a.m. service on March 1st. Please let them know how welcome they are.

Attention All Green Thumb Gardeners

On Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 9:00 am we will begin to flower the Saint Philip grounds. Plants and mulch will be provided. Needed are the diggers in the dirt who will plant the many flats of blooming plants. Please bring your gloves, your trowel, clippers, your sun hat and a smile. The Youth will be present to lend their hands and good spirits. Please join us and help to prepare our grounds for the celebration of Easter.

If you wish to volunteer, just come to the church and stay while you can. Leave when you must.

The Property Commission

Join the PrimeTimers March 5th Activity

Visit the Museum of Natural Science with the PrimeTimers to see the special exhibit, The Birth of Christianity: A Jewish Story. This presentation explores the nature of messianic expectations among the Jewish people. View the earliest known manuscript containing the story of Christ's birth in the oldest known copy of the New Testament Book of Luke and one of the original Dead Sea Scrolls containing the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. The exhibit includes more than 200 artifacts such as the Jeselsohn Stone and rare manuscripts which highlight the cultural, political and personal events that shaped Jerusalem and the surrounding region more than 2000 years ago. After visiting the exhibit the group will enjoy lunch together.

Call or stop by the church office to sign up for this trip.

Easter Boxes for the Women's Home

It's time once again to begin filling Easter boxes. The recipient of these boxes, The Women's Home is a unique long-term residence program providing women the opportunity to rebuild their lives through spiritual counseling, individual therapy and work training.

The Easter boxes, a long-time project of Presbyterian Women is open for participation by all. The goal is to fill 55 shoe boxes, wrap them in pretty spring paper and present them to the Women's Home for Easter distribution. Here are some suggestions of needed items: cosmetics (purchased or department store samples), hotel or airline samples, tooth brushes and tooth paste, mouthwash, razors, combs, hair brushes, hair spray, postage stamps, envelopes, note paper, note cards, jewelry. Note: We are especially in need of 10-12 oz. bottles of shampoo, 8 oz. toothpaste and toothbrushes. You may do a complete box, a partial box, or just donate loose items. If you prefer, we take cash donations to purchase items. Bring to a PW Circle meeting or leave in marked container in the church office or the gathering area near the Sanctuary.

Questions? Call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385.

Presbyterian News Service

A new and developing online method of obtaining Presbyterian news as it relates to our presbytery (New Covenant Presbytery) and our synod (Synod of the Sun) is available to all our congregations. Follow these simple screen instructions in order to become a member of the Presbyterian News Service:

Go to www.pnnews.org

Click on "Sun Edition" from the right-hand menu.

Click on "Learn more/join" from left-hand menu.

Lectionary Readings

March 1, 2009

1st Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

March 8, 2009

2nd Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

March 15, 2009

3rd Sunday in Lent
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 22, 2009

4th Sunday in Lent
Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 29, 2009

5th Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-2 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Sunday School Classes

The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Meets in Room 200

Church & Society

Meets in Room 201

March 1 and 8

"Middle East Update"

Ted Curry and Colin Elk, speakers

Ted Curry

joined the St. John's School history department in 1997 after teaching for several years in the Vanguard program at Jesse Jones High School. He has also been teaching *AP United States Government and Politics* for the past fourteen years in the Rice University Summer School program for high school students.

Colin Elk

joined the SJS foreign language department in 2004. During his five years at St. John's he has taught several Latin classes and together with Ted Curry an honors seminar entitled *Modern Middle East*.

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".

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

1 Kathryn Lippincott
3 William Rovere
3 Brian Webster
6 Elaine Rodiek
7 Joseph Harwood
7 Sally Wickes
8 Tom Anderson
9 Susan Gartner Leonardson
10 Rita Hannah
11 Toto McGehee
14 Bennett Pepi
16 Sandra Reading
16 Kate Burkart
17 Jacob English
17 Elaine Flowers

18 Daniel Flowers
18 Bette Shumake
18 Patricia Fossler
21 Ann Anderson
23 Stephen Kirk
23 Virginia Waldrop
24 Grady Evans
26 Paxton Lambright
26 Inez Cummings
26 Emily Estill
28 Jacqueline Hamilton
28 Sue Mitchell
28 Sarah Cherrillo
29 Sarah Felknor-Ragland
30 Jane Lee
31 Jean Nelson
31 Ruth Ewing

Mark Your Calendars
Thursday, March 26, 2009
Westin Galleria Hotel

Christian Community Service Center's
13th Annual
AZALEA DINNER

Program:

Silent Auction & Reception
Live Auction

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 West Alabama

Involve your church, friends, and places of business
to help CCSC raise funds & awareness!!

Individual Tickets: \$85.00

Couples: \$160.00

Contributions should be made payable to CCSC. MasterCard & Visa are accepted.
Please mail to: Christian Community Service Center, P.O. Box 27924, Houston, TX 77227

For additional information:

Kelly Finkenbinder, CCSC Staff, 713-961-3993 or kfinkenbinder@ccschouston.com