

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
Volume 54, Number 8

Houston, Texas
12 April 2010

60 *growing in
God's grace..*
years

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
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
Administrative Assistant

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor
Dimas Parada
Custodian
Peter Ramadan
Custodian

Susan Estill
Newsletter Editor
philip-eye@saintphilip.net

Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Organ Dedication Weekend April 17 and 18, 2010

Come and celebrate
the completion of Op. 29
by Paul Fritts & Co. Organ Builders,
of Tacoma, WA,
a mechanical-action instrument
of three manuals and forty-eight stops.

Inaugural Recital

Saturday, April 17, 2010

at 7:00 pm

featuring St. Philip Organist
Matthew Dirst.

Reception following the recital.

Dedication Service

Sunday, April 18, 2010

at 11:00 am

featuring the St. Philip Choir singing
Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*.
Tours of the organ after the service.

Bring your friends and neighbors.
You won't want to miss a moment
of this exciting weekend!

St. Philip – A United Congregation

by Gene McKelvey and Bill Poe

On Tuesday afternoon, April 6, 2010 commissioners from throughout New Covenant Presbytery assembled at the Presbyterian Center on Lovett Street in Houston. They came to act on a motion from General Council "to approve the Plan of Unification for St. Philip Presbyterian Church and Central Presbyterian Church, both of Houston, TX". This plan of unification had previously been unanimously approved by both merger committees and both sessions. The Central congregation endorsed the plan by a vote of 46 to 7 and the St. Philip congregation agreed, voting 174 to 3 (with 1 abstention).

The space was filled to overflowing as the Moderator, Elder Garry Schoonover, called our presbytery into
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Lectionary Readings

April 18, 2010

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

April 25, 2010

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 2, 2010

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 9, 2010

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

May 16, 2010

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

May 23, 2010

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

May 30, 2010

Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Congregational Concerns:

In Healthcare: **Louise Bradley** at Hallmark; **Ann Lockwood** at Hampton on Post Oak

Recuperating: **Marguerite Badger, Roy Nelson**

At home: **Meredith Gartner, Penny Vieau**

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 *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, by Adam Hamilton. Get your copy from Dan Flowers and join us!!

Easter Boxes for The Women's Home: Many, many thanks for your generous support of this project. Thanks to you, we were able to deliver 55 very full boxes and a few shopping bags of large items that wouldn't fit in a box. All is much appreciated and the residents of The Home love to receive these gifts. Your generosity is overwhelming as always.

Wednesday Night Live: Dinner at 5:45; cost \$7.00. A six week discussion will be led by Vicki Mckay on Dan Kimball's book, *They Like Jesus But Not the Church*. It is an overview of the six most common objections emerging generations have with church and Christianity along with the biblical answers to these objections and examples of how churches are facing this challenge.

Renewal of Appointment of Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits: The Committee on Ministry of New Covenant Presbytery met Tuesday, April 6th, 2010. As part of their proceedings they approved a renewal of our contract with Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits, St. Philip Interim Associate Pastor. This contract remains in effect for a period of one year unless it is terminated by either party. The Staff Commission is pleased to announce the renewal of this appointment. We look forward to Kristy's continued ministry here at St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

Kids Against Hunger: On April 25th Kids Against Hunger will be packing food after the 11:00 am worship service. Lunch will be available for \$7. Sign up at the church office. Volunteers in March packaged enough food to provide Kid's Meals with rice casserole packages to include in all of their Family Easter Food Baskets. Kid's Meals has requested a monthly supply of food to supplement periods when daily lunch delivery is not made. We will be working to meet this demand.

The Philip-Eye will be published on April 26, May 10 and 24.

From Your DCM:

During the weekend I had the opportunity to accompany a fellow St. Philippian to a birding conference in Galveston. I have jokingly said that I only recognize ten birds, which is a slight underestimate. While attending the conference we had the opportunity to participate in beginner's instructional classes and a field trip to High Island. The late Ellen Red often took groups to bird watch at this patch of trees in a Gulf Coastal flatland. I knew it was an area of higher elevation due to being located on the top of a salt dome. It was news to me that it is not an island surrounded by water. It is an area of several acres covered with trees that appears to be an island surrounded by a flatland. This is a guidepost for sailors and birds. The guide explained to those in our group from out of state that Texans often exaggerate about various things within the state. Thus to say land is an island is just a Texas expression. The highest elevation of High Island is 30 feet. This small community suffered a considerable amount of damage during hurricane Ike. An impressive amount of recovery has been accomplished through the work of the residents and various churches in the Presbytery of New Covenant.

Instructors for beginning bird watching gave us information that can be applied to the birding and a Christian walk. The field guide for birding should become like our Bible. We should study it at least ten minutes daily. We can take it to a restaurant when dining alone, keep it in the car to pass the time during traffic jams, and study it morning and night as a ritual. The more we study; the more we learn. To observe birds in their natural habitat it is helpful to go out doors to see them and the other creations that God has created. We need to be still, be quiet, listen, and be patient. As we seek to learn about birds we should also seek to learn what God is trying to communicate to us. Take the time to be out of doors and appreciate the glorious spring season that has been given to us again by God.

Judy

People who have contributed to the life of our congregation over the past 60 years.

60 years...Remembering:

"Bud" Evans—Manager of the Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Co., who, in the early fifties, offered the facilities of his company for St. Philip's worship services and Sunday school while the first phase of our campus was under construction. He became the first chairman of the Board of Deacons.

Interim Pastor Search Process

Our congregation is at an important time in its history. We are uniting with an old historic church, Central Presbyterian, and at the same time we are losing our Senior Pastor, Bill Poe, as you are already aware. It therefore is necessary that we as a united congregation look toward the future with the calling of a new pastor.

In the Presbyterian denomination an interim pastor is usually hired to serve in a temporary pastoral relationship until a permanent pastor can be called. The process begins with the writing of a Church Information Form (CIF) which gives a succinct picture of the congregation to inquiring pastors. The CIF used by our denomination is a standard form which lists the position a church is seeking. It provides information about the size of the church, a description of the duties and responsibilities required of the applicant and the gifts and skills of the congregation. This completed form is sent to the Church Leadership Connection. It is through this connection that potential candidates can be linked to churches which are seeking new calls.

For St. Philip, the Staff Commission was charged by the session with the task of serving as the search committee for our interim pastor. This search is now well underway. The Commission began by writing a CIF and submitting it to our denomination's Church Leadership Connection. Already, 35 applications have been received. When the Staff Commission finally chooses a candidate, the nominee will be presented to the session. The employment of an interim pastor must be approved by session in consultation with presbytery and does not require a congregational vote. The interim pastor serves specific functions for a limited period of time and is not eligible to serve the church as the next permanent pastor.

The procedure for calling the permanent pastor is different. After having received nominations from various church groups and the congregation, our Congregational Nominating Committee will choose a slate of nominees for election to a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC is elected by the congregation. The process of forming a PNC is not begun until after the current installed pastor has left. The PNC will also write a Church Information Form. The PNC will confer with the presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) during the many steps of the search process. They will subsequently receive applications from interested candidates, conduct interviews and make their selection. With the concurrence of the COM the nominee will be presented to the congregation for election. If elected by the congregation and approved by the Presbytery of New Covenant, St. Philip will then have a new Pastor, Head of Staff.

Florence McKelvey
Chair, Staff Commission

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Congratulations to **Robin Angly** and **Miles Smith** on the birth of granddaughter, **Adalynn Angly**, born March 31 to **Lizette** and **Etienne Angly**.

One Great Hour of Sharing—Sharing Resources—Changing Lives: Easter Sunday special offering received \$4,488.98. **April Hunger Offering** received on April 4th benefiting Les and Cindy Morgan's Bangladesh Mission totaled \$1,368.00. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Welcome New Members...

Stewart Lovett Lyman grew up right here in Houston. He went to college at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, and then lived in Boston, MA, for four years until returning to Houston. He currently works at Stream Realty Partners, a commercial real estate firm He is married to Logan Quillman Lyman and has one newborn son, Tucker. His hobbies include golf, spending time outdoors, reading, and listening to music. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his family and going to Lake McQueeney whenever possible.

Logan Quillman Lyman grew up in Nashville, TN, and attended Vanderbilt for her undergraduate studies. She later attended Harvard Graduate School of Education. While in Boston, she was also a special education teacher, and in Houston, she now works for YES Prep Public Schools. She is married to Stewart Lyman and has a 5-month old son, Tucker. In her last church, Logan served on the pastor search committee and as a Sunday school teacher. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, reading, and traveling.

Elizabeth Pamela Lewis ("Pam") grew up in the Houston area, particularly the Sageglen/Sagemont area. She is married to long-time member Doug Lewis and has been residing in Victoria, TX. Pam got her bachelors of science and masters in engineering, and has worked in the chemical industry for 2 years and the aerospace industry for 10 years. She has a particular talent for cooking, and she enjoys going to the movies, theater, walking in the park, and conducting research of interest in her spare time.

St. Philip Turns 60!

St. Philip Presbyterian Church
was chartered September 10, 1950.

Mark your calendars now
for Sunday, September 12, 2010
when you'll want to be a part
of the big celebration of our 60th birthday!

(from page 1)

session. After General Council's moderator, Rev. Patricia Clark, read the motion, presbytery was addressed by the chairs of both Merger Committees. This was followed by an extensive discussion wherein members of both Merger Committees very capably responded to questions from the floor. It became clearly evident that this was to be a merger of two very compatible and committed congregations who had carefully laid the foundation for union.

Now it was time for the vote and the Presbytery of New Covenant overwhelmingly gave their approval and appointed an Administrative Commission to effect the Union. St. Philip is indeed to become a united congregation.

The last Sunday our two congregations will worship separately will be Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, and our first United Service will be the following Sunday, May 30th, which is Trinity Sunday. **On Sunday, May 30th, there will be only one service of worship at 11:00 a.m.**

The members of the Presbytery's Administrative Commission are:

Elder Gary Schoonover,

Moderator of Presbytery

Elder Gene McKelvey,

of the St. Philip Union Task Force

Elder Cathy Patterson,

of the Central Union Task Force

The Rev. Wendy Bailey,

Associate General Presbytery of New Covenant Presbytery

The Rev. Charlotte Kibler,

a minister member of New Covenant Presbytery

The Rev. Dr. William C. Poe,

Pastor of the United Congregation of St. Philip

Church School Classes

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

This class is using "Living the Questions"

as our discussion resource.

Leadership is on a rotating basis.

Come join the SPa class in 2010!

Bible Study

Room 204 in the Education Building

The class is studying the Book of Exodus.

Led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop.

Church and Society

Room 201 in the Education Building

Ellen MacDonald continues her aging series:

April 18

Dementia - Caregiving and Personal Issues

Caregiving challenges -

the frustration and the satisfaction.

April 25

Communication/Spousal Relationships

"I married her/him for better or worse,

but not for lunch every day!"

May 2

The Covenant Network

Bill Poe will share his knowledge of this organization that is going to have their 2010 national meeting at St. Philip on November 4-6.

Dated Material

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