

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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Let's Identify Ourselves or "I Really Should Know Your Name"

The Belonging Commission is responding to requests by many of our members that we offer assistance—especially to new members and visitors—in helping us know one another.

Many of you have ordered and received name tags and are wearing them. Do keep in mind how helpful the tags are to those who are getting to know members of our congregation. They are also helpful to those of us who experience "senior" moments.

While part of the cost of each name tag will be underwritten by the Commission, you are requested to contribute \$5.00 toward the cost of your tag.

You will soon be able to leave them here at the church instead of trying to remember to bring them with you each Sunday. Magnetic boards to which the tags can be attached and which will keep them in place until the next time they are needed should be available next Sunday.

Commission members will be in the gathering area before and after church services on several Sundays to enable all members of the congregation to order tags and make payment for them. If you have served as an elder at St. Philip or any Presbyterian church, please indicate that when you order your name tag.

Carla Burns and Charles Lucas are Co-Moderators of the Belonging Commission.

PW Birthday Offering

Presbyterian Women invite everyone to celebrate the Birthday Offering on Sunday, April 26th with cake and punch in the Gathering Area following the 11:00 am worship service.

The 2009 offering will support La Mujer Obrera in El Paso, TX, and His Kids, Too! in the Ukraine. La Mujer Obrera responds to the needs of thousands of Mexican immigrant women who lost their jobs as factory workers when globalization made it cheaper to have factories in developing countries. This group will work to revitalize the area and create long-term, sustainable economic opportunities for area residents. The Ukraine project will support the Children's Home for Orphans which houses special needs children. Training will be offered to staff in 21 other orphanages reaching more than 5,000 children.

Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Lectionary Readings

April 26, 2009
3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

May 3, 2009
4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

May 10, 2009
5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 17, 2009
6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized/Healthcare:

Nathan Vits, grandson of former pastor Bill Forbes and Patty be undergoing several surgeries during the coming weeks in Cincinnati. OH.

Recuperating: **Baby Ava Arlinghaus, Lee Murphree, Paula Vuyk**

At home: **Bill Boren, Chuck Fortney, Ellen Red, Herb Scott, Penny Vieau.**

In Iraq: **Ken Evans**, Tamara Arlinghaus' father; **Chris Echols**, Warren Wallingford's stepson.

A note from **Lola Scott**: *Herb and I wish to thank the St. Philip family for the lovely plant. It certainly adds color to and brightens our living room. It is most thoughtful of you to remember us. May God bless and keep you in His loving care. We wish you a very Happy*

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 in the office Conference Room each Friday at noon for a BYO lunch followed with a presentation and discussion. Currently, we are reading *Parables for Today*, by Alyce M. McKenzie. Get your copy from Dan Flowers. Grab a sandwich and join us!

Smile! The Communication Commission will continue taking pictures of members and their families after worship in the new Gathering area on Sunday, April 26. The photos are for a new church pictorial directory. Questions? Contact Omar Rouchon at 713 278-9397.

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 57 very full boxes and a few shopping bags of large items that wouldn't fit in a box. This was all worth about \$2,300. All is much appreciated and the residents of The Home love to receive these gifts. Your generosity is overwhelming as always.

The Philip-Eye will be published on May 4 and 18. 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.

Please note: The server has been down all day, so if you sent an email for inclusion today, it was not received. Apologies for any inconvenience, but we are at the mercy of the technology we've all come to love.

From Your Director of Music:

Notes from Keith:

Hi, Everybody,

Here's what's going on in my mind this glorious Spring morning.

Gratitude...

For everyone involved in all the Musical Ministries at St. Philip! And please remember that this also includes YOU, the listener, the one who completes the musical circuit, without whom we'd be singing and playing in a vacuum. Thank you for being aware and receptive. You make our lives as musicians very gratifying.

Bells...

The Adult Choir resumes on Monday, the 27th at 6:30 in the Bell Rehearsal Room, upstairs in the Music Suite. We've still got places to fill, so don't be shy. Give me a call.

Summer Choir...

Your intrepid Adult Choir forges ahead FULL STEAM in the Summertime. While the Wednesday rehearsals stop, we gather every Sunday morning at 10:14 to prepare for our leadership responsibilities. Come join us. The music is wonderfully familiar and the fellowship is unmatched.

The End of the Season...

Now that St. Philip is "on the map" in the musical community of the region, we are blessed to have fine musical groups rent the space for concerts. The final concert of this season is on May 2nd at 7:30 pm – the professional choir, CANTARE, presents a program of music inspired by the Sacrament of Matrimony. Tickets available at the door, or on the CANTARE website.

Julia's New Recital Date...

Julia Fox, who is doing intensive vocal work here in Houston, is presenting her first full recital, called "Summers in Houston," on June 27th, a Saturday, at 7:30 pm. Please note that this is a date change from previously announced. You won't want to miss this!

Youth Sunday...

Coming up in May, we will be blessed with an entire liturgy designed, from a blank piece of paper on up, by your smart and faithful youth.

Matthew...

It's easy to take our fine organist, Matthew Dirst, for granted. Let's not. Please take the time to tell him how much you appreciate the consistent quality and variety and sheer professionalism of his service among us.

Looking forward to the Summertime.

Your musician,

Keith

Welcome New Member...

Patrick Ball joined St. Philip on April 12 by transfer of letter from St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Houston. Patrick, with his twin sister, Patricia, grew up in Baytown, where they both played in the Robert E. Lee High School Band and in the Houston Youth Symphony. They parted ways when Patricia went to Baylor University and Patrick to Texas A&M where he was in the Aggie Band. Studies took second place when his classmate, a licensed pilot, began teaching him how to fly and after his sophomore year, he was quickly accepted into U. S. Naval Flight Training, already having a Private Pilot's license.

After the Navy, he returned to college at San Francisco State then transferred to Southern Methodist University. He received his BBA and returned to Baytown to begin his insurance agency business. During his time at SMU, he did executive flying for 16 Southern Governors, their Southern Interstate Nuclear Advisory Board and a prominent Dallas radiologist who had been on the Manhattan Project. He had close ties to two of the original seven astronauts and many political figures, scientist and executives were his passengers.

Patrick has had many civic interests including a term on the Baytown city council and has been active in political activities as a Precinct Chair, Election Judge, Senate District Co-Chair and active involvement with state and national legislators.

Among other businesses, Patrick started a motorcycle dealership, which he operated for 28 years, and that led him to specialize his insurance business into a niche, insuring motorcycles all across Texas, then later, expanding into 31 other states following the sale of his dealership. Now he is one of the nation's top insurance agents insuring motorcycles, classic cars, ATVs, RVs, boats, personal watercraft and trailers.

He was baptized in First Presbyterian Church, Baytown, as an infant. In 1992, he moved to Houston and joined St. Giles Presbyterian Church, where he was ordained an Elder and served on the Session. He has traveled world wide, and he says his most impressive travel has been to Israel in 1993 with the St. Giles church group. His faith is strong and he is happy to be at St. Philip now where he can worship and serve the Lord.

Give Patrick a hearty St. Philip welcome.

SPY Youth Group

*** Sunday Evenings - 5:45 - 7:30 pm***

Join us every Sunday night for fun, games, food, preparing for Youth Sunday, and more.

Upcoming events include Movie Day, Lock-In, and Mission trips.

For more information, contact Cindy Pope at Cindy@saintphilip.net

Hallelujah!

CORNER

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering received on Easter Sunday totaled #5,771.72. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Paulie Carlson has created a new banner to add to St. Philip's astounding collection of banners created by church members over the past 30 years. Paulie's most recent banner was unveiled on Easter morning. Thank you, Paulie for sharing your remarkable creative talents with us.

Welcome New Members **Wendy Stewart** and **Patrick Ball** who joined St. Philip on April 12.

Congratulations to **Pam McGlothlin** and **Doug Lewis** on their wedding April 18 here at St. Philip.

Organ Progress Update

Paul Fritts, organ builder, writes that production is going forward on the organ right on schedule or even a little ahead of schedule. We should expect delivery of the organ in early November. The organ will be completely assembled at Fritts' shop in Tacoma, WA, and there will be a celebratory reception where the organ will be played. Then the organ will be dismantled and shipped to us. On a Sunday after worship volunteers will gather and the organ parts will be unloaded from the truck and carried into the sanctuary and organ loft. This will be an exciting and festive day! Jobs will be available for volunteers of every age and strength, so when the time comes and we ask, don't be shy. In this way we can take ownership of the organ and feel that we have made a special contribution. Housing will be needed for six men for a few weeks and we will also be asking for volunteers for that.

To see the progress and read comments from Fritts, go to this link: <http://www.saintphilip.net/ministries/st-philip-pipe-organ>

This link will be updated whenever pictures or comments are received.

PrimeTimers are on the Move in May

On May 7th the bus will leave the church at 9:00 am and travel to Brenham. The first stop will be at Ellison's Greenhouses for our personal tour of five acres of Spring plants, flowers, and foliage. Then it is on to lunch at Purcell's Country Style Buffet. Bring your appetite! The afternoon with Heritage Home Tours will take everyone on a guided tour through two homes that are on the National Register of Historic Places. Both homes were built in the mid 1800's.

Stop by the office or call 713-622-4807 to reserve your place on the bus!

Sunday School Classes

The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Meets in Room 200

Church & Society

Meets in Room 201

"Perspectives on Immigration"

a comprehensive view of immigration with emphasis on information and a thoughtful dialogue within a Christian context.

April 26: in the Dining Room

The speaker is Francisco Arguellez, a native of Mexico, who works with immigrants at the Houston Interfaith Worker Justice Center and assists his wife (professor of Anthropology at the University of Houston, Clear Lake) in a study of the effects of globalization on the poor along the border between Mexico and Guatemala.

May 3 and 17 in Room 201

"Responding to Differences"

Susan Lange, Ph.D., clinical director and a therapist at Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers.

These two classes will identify and experiment with behaviors that move us toward the goals of communicating more effectively when we encounter differences in beliefs and perspectives.

Managing our responses to differences is an ongoing challenge and opportunity for all of us. Each class will include some information giving and some opportunities to practice new skills.

Bring your curiosity and courage and compassion.

Add your voice to the voices of others who want to learn even at the cost of changing our minds and our hearts.

May 3

Responses to differences: what moves us toward information and what hinders our progress.

May 17

Developing our skills in containing and exploring and discovering information.

May 31, June 7 and 21

Continuing

"Perspectives on Immigration"

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".

Wednesday Night LIVE!

Note New Start Time!

for dinner (\$7 per adult, \$3 per child), followed by a workshop from 6:15 to 7:00.

April 22

Mary Sinderson will hold a class on crocheting.

Please bring your own supplies.

April 29

Tim Phillips will speak on "The Multicultural Café", whose purpose is to help God's people "get" multicultural and move toward some expression of multicultural church.

May 6

Holocaust Museum Houston will be filming a presentation by Holocaust survivor Ruth Steinfeld. Ruth will tell the story of her childhood in Sinsheim, Germany, the safe harbor she and her sister Lea received with a French farmer's family, their journey to Houston and how her visit to Yad Vashem in Israel and to their childhood home in Germany in 1981 changed her faith and belief in God forever.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Barbara Rathgeber	16 Jody Tomforde
1 Lisa Lomax	16 Nancy Cook
2 Jack Fox	16 Barclay Davis
2 Richard Ketcham	18 Ed Herrera
3 Teresa English	18 Susan Farley
3 Joe Munson	18 Sarah Cherrillo
4 Rachel Biar	21 Olga Lewis
5 Marty Coyle	21 Kathryn Harwood
6 Margaret Hansen	22 T. W. Puddephatt
8 Elizabeth Dean	22 Skip Britton
9 Grayson Anderson	22 Nancy Waldrop
11 Penny Vieau	23 Hope Wilmarth
12 Carolyn Herrera	23 Betty Anne Poe
13 Christine Gensch	25 Betsy DuBose
13 Phyllis Puntch	25 Beth Flowers
13 John Webster	26 H. L. Britton
13 Lyle Moss	26 Paxton Williams
14 Jan Conner	26 Cathy Herrera
15 Barger Miller	29 Charles Lucas
15 Meredith Gartner	30 Susan Estill
	30 Alison MacManus

Times of Crisis are Times of Action and Prayer

by Judy Fletcher, Synod of the Sun Executive

The times are... what?
 How would you finish that sentence?
 Really, what would you say?
 Scary, sad, chaotic, in crisis, challenging?
 I hope you are not thinking "hopeless."
 For the record, I am using the word crisis.

I've learned that the often misinterpreted Chinese characters for crisis don't really mean danger plus opportunity. A more accurate interpretation is danger plus crucial point. So, crisis is a critical moment in time which I believe calls to action.

Crisis occurs when older adults lose more than one-third of their retirement funds, when young families lose their jobs with no fallback plan, and when the sheer magnitude of global problems astounds and bewilders us.

I do not want to be naïve about the situation, but I would like for us to take a moment to focus on actions we might take in these critical times. Here is my take on a few:

Put losses in perspective

Most of us have not lost our homes or possessions. My son Brett broke his leg when he was two. I was terribly upset for days. Then I remembered there were so many families who would long to be in our place instead of facing their child's life-threatening disease.

Lord, help us remember that we still have so many blessings in this life. Help us see this as a time to count or recount them. Amen.

Lessen our dependence on "stuff"

Recycling makes a difference. So does living on less. Are we willing to look at how we contribute to rampant consumerism? I remember how friends and family showered our son. I can still see him carrying around not just a few stuffed animals, but a whole armload of Snoopy dolls. I have often wondered if we look like that to God when we turn to God in prayer - clinging to our stuff.

Lord, help us readjust our priorities to the end that our lives demonstrate that we know when enough is really enough. Help us live with an awareness that, while we love our lovely things, true happiness involves remembering all the intangibles that give meaning and depth to our lives. Amen.

We can be a small part of the solution

We can focus on those who do not have homes to lose or food to eat, those who are the "have-nots" in our towns and in this world. This is not a time for thinking about ourselves over those who need our help just to live from day to day. Christians often give more to church and church institutions in difficult times. Are we willing to make that commitment now?

Lord, let us show by our actions that we do remember the needs of others. Help us to recommit to sharing with people in need, especially those helped by One Great Hour of Sharing. Amen.

These are challenging and difficult times, but we can listen for a call to action. As people of God, we make a difference. Friends, let's enter into conversations and prayers in our families, with our friends, and in our churches about specific things we can do individually and collectively.

To do nothing is a decision not to act. It adds to the problem and can prompt us to feel like victims who can't see how to respond in caring ways.

You are people who care deeply about life, God, and the church of Jesus Christ. Instead of feeling guilty for what we still have, let us be found guilty of multi-faceted acts of kindness and compassion in these times of crisis.

(ED. Note: This article and others can be found online at <http://sun.pnnews.org>. As space permits, I plan to highlight articles from Presbyterian News Service. [Thanks, Sara Jean])