

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
Volume 54, Number 9

Houston, Texas
26 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

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Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Mo-Ranch Update

Congregation to Congregation (C2C) Update

St. Philip's support of this year's major emphasis of Interfaith Ministries is off to a successful beginning. The Congregation to Congregation project is an effort by IM to facilitate understanding among people of different religious backgrounds.

A group of 12 St. Philipians (listed below) participated in the first of several C2C get-togethers, a supper at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral: Carla Burns, Charles Lucas, Sara Jean Jackson, Martha Hargraves, Bill and Karen Morris, Sue and Dick Howard, Mary Grace Carter, James and Sandra Cooper, and Mickey Meyers.

Other events are planned and will include a work project and a learning project. Being considered is an invitation to the total group to attend some sort of hospitality event at St. Philip. More about that as the planning continues. In the meantime, interested folks can contact any of the above participants for more information. We hope to eventually involve at least 20 people from St. Philip in this project.

Reality television has impacted our lives. Mo-Ranch is a reality and for thirty-five years we have gone there to be refreshed and renewed. This year we celebrate the Amazing Journey (Race) that we have been running and we celebrate with Dancing with the Stars in the evening. And what better way to start the next phase of our amazing race when we are challenged with "When Life Meets Faith".

Come and join the fun and sun and fellowship with bounding laughter. A reminder that our dates this year are June 10-13. We are asking that you **help support the Ranch with the Mo Shower**. Each year we collect an offering to help with a project at Mo-Ranch.

Also, you can be a big help in our "snack area". **People, whose names begin with A-L, please bring snacks for Friday night and M-Z, snacks for Saturday night.** Miles will collect those snacks at Mo-Ranch. We will have lots of lemonade and water available.

We could use some **help with volunteers for our children with crafts and fun adventures.** If you would like to help, please contact Michael Alexander (almike@swbell.net).

Lectionary Readings

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)

Congregational Concerns:

Healthcare: **Louise Bradley** at Hallmark, **Ann Lockwood** at the Hampton at Post Oak

Recuperating: **Roy Nelson**

At home: **Grayson Anderson, Penny Vieau**

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to the **family of Nancy Winter** on her death on April 24th.

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!!

Wednesday Night Live: Dinner at 5:45; cost \$7.00. The discussion of Dan Kimball's book, *They Like Jesus But Not the Church*, led by Vicki McKay continues. The book 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.

Volunteer Opportunity - Lord of the Streets (LOTS): The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday May 16. 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. Fifteen volunteers are needed. If May 16th is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying mission project.

You are invited to the 2010 Mo-Ranch Bible Study Conference, July 26 to 28. Dr. Louise Lawson Johnson will lead "Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today." More information at www.moranch.com. Register by phone 1-800-460-4401, email program@moranch.com.

The Philip-Eye will be published on May 10 and 24. 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 Director of Music:

"Crossing the Pond"

I'm excited to announce that the St. Philip Choir has been invited to be the choir-in-residence at the York Minster, in the historic northern England town of York, for the week ending Sunday, June 5th, 2011. This was based on the strength of an audition CD we sent in a few months ago, and we are pleased and honored to have been asked. It marks the first international tour for the choir, and the first time an invitation like this has been extended to St. Philip. It marks a real opportunity to make a mark at the international level, as well as have a wonderful musical and spiritual experience with our dear St. Philip friends.

As you may know, the York Minster is one of the finest cathedrals in Europe, let alone the United Kingdom. We will sing daily evensong services at 5:00 pm as well as three complete services on Sunday; the chance to sing in such a beautiful, historic space is tremendously exciting.

We have also been asked to sing a series of lunchtime concerts at St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland, which is a similarly magnificent structure and one of the most important churches in the Presbyterian denomination. If this trip moves forward, we will fly into Edinburgh around Wednesday, May 25th, 2011, singing the St. Giles concerts and touring Edinburgh until Sunday, May 29th. At that point, we would cross the border to York, commencing our residency with evensong on Tuesday, May 31st and departing on Monday, June 6th. The choir will be free during the daytime all week, leaving plenty of time to explore the town and the surrounding countryside.

Trips like this are NOT limited to choir members! In fact, more often than not, these types of tours are accompanied by many "non-singing" members - friends, well-wishers or family members who merely wish to come along for the ride. Both Edinburgh and York are magnificent, historic cities with much to see and do - and, we'd love to have a good sized Texas-sympathetic contingent in the pews!

Therefore, if you're interested in coming, there are two ways to do it:

1. Join the Choir! Rehearsals for our tour music will commence in Fall of 2010, and will take place during the normal rehearsal time - Wednesdays, 7-9:00 pm.
2. Consider becoming a non-singing member of our entourage.

Currently, the cost for this trip will be about \$3000, which includes ALL expenses related to accommodation and travel, in addition to most meals. The more members we have aboard, the cheaper it gets.

There will be a significant fund-raising push for this trip, should we move forward on it, over the coming year, in order to attempt to drive down the per person cost as much as humanly possible.

For all those who are interested in this wonderful

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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 studying "Living the Questions".

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

May 2 and 9

Bill Poe will share his knowledge of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians that is having their 2010 national meeting at St. Philip on November 4-6.

He will use a documentary entitled "Turning Points: Stories of Life and Change in the Church.

May 16

D. Michael Lindsay, Rice Professor will speak about the role of contemporary Christianity in American society based on research for his Pulitzer nominated book, "Faith in the Halls of Power."

He will relate insights and memorable stories from the interviews about the faith he conducted with 360 national leaders.

May 23

Robert Zaretsky, UH Professor will compare the history textbook controversy in Texas to a similar controversy in France, then turn to what he believes is the proper response of professional historians.

May 30

Kate Burkart will lead a film study on "Up in the Air."

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Congratulations to **Cindy Johnson** and **Ben Dees** who were married on March 18, 2010. The couple thanks the congregation for their support and will fondly remember St. Philip as they relocate and begin their life together in Chicago.

The weekend of April 18 and 19 with the Inaugural Concert and Dedication of the Fritts Organ was an amazing celebration.

On April 25th, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to **Stewart Lyman** and to **Tucker Lyman**, son of **Stewart** and wife **Logan**.

The Birthday Offering for Presbyterian Women totaled \$1,326.00. Thank you for your generosity. This offering will be sent to General Assembly for support of two projects: Kindergarten & Childcare Center in Kirkuk, Iraq and Peace Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY.

Kids Against Hunger

Sunday, April 25th, an enthusiastic group of mission oriented volunteers enjoyed lunch, fellowship, and a very successful food packing session. Almost 4,000 meals were packaged for hungry and starving children in Houston and beyond. The Mission Commission is working to identify agencies that help alleviate malnutrition among children. St. Philip members are encouraged to bring to the attention of our Kids Against Hunger Satellite any charitable groups who serve this population.

The generosity of our congregation has made it possible to inventory an adequate supply of the rice, soy, vegetable and vitamins to operate future packing sessions. We have the opportunity to utilize our satellite as an Outreach venue to the community and help groups seeking service projects to organize a packing session at St. Philip. Between 14 and 28 volunteers are optimum for our operation. Promotional brochures and DVDs describing Kids Against Hunger are available in the church office.

PrimeTimers Visit Texas City May 6th

Join the PrimeTimers as they visit Texas City with the City by the Bay Tour. A docent will guide us through Texas City history including a stop at Heritage Park. There we will visit vintage Texas City Homes including the Davidson Home, a fine example of late Victorian architecture.

After lunch at the Reef Seafood Restaurant, the tour continues until about 2:00 when the bus starts its return home. Learn about historical Texas City by signing up for the trip by calling the church office 713-622-4807. You may also sign-up in the gathering area Sunday morning.

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opportunity, you can email me at eroica999@gmail.com or call me at the church with questions. The due date to hold a spot is June 15th of this year, and requires a \$250.00/person deposit, which is fully refundable and goes towards the cost of the trip. Checks should be made out to St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

I truly hope you'll consider being a part of this amazing trip!

With best wishes, Justin Smith

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!

Organ Report

Your Organ Committee (now disbanded) feels that the final report written by organ consultant Dr. Robert Bates should be shared with the congregation. A reply by Paul Fritts, the organ builder, is also included.

Dear Members of the St. Philip Organ Committee and Paul Fritts:

Normally an organ consultant gives a report to the church at the end of an installation. Often it is quite long, spelling out mechanical issues and problems with voicing, balances, tuning, etc. I'm happy to say that this report is an exception to that rule.

Your new Fritts organ is a masterpiece. I don't think it is possible to purchase a finer organ today. I have spent quite a bit of time practicing at St. Philip and I have found absolutely no mechanical problems. I am confident that the instrument will last a very long time, with only minor repairs needed during the coming years. The organ is a joy to play. Every organist who sits down to play it comments on the superb action. It is a very revealing instrument: by that I mean that the best organists can really shine, while less advanced ones soon discover that they have some work to do!

Tonally, the instrument is magnificent. I would especially like to point out the beauty and clarity of the principal choruses, which are the very heart and soul of any classically inspired instrument. Also each of the many flutes and reeds has its own appropriate color; individually and in combination they are vibrant and alive. The cornet (Paul's gift to St. Philip) is a splendid addition to the stop list. The sound of every stop is superb everywhere in the room, thanks in great part to the marked improvements in acoustics. I'm also very happy with the appearance of the organ, which I think was worth all the toil and trouble! The choice of wall color in the balcony was the final icing on the cake.

I am very much indebted to St. Philip Church for allowing me to teach on the instrument; all of my students are thrilled to have the opportunity to play it, and to learn from it. I would like to thank Elizabeth for her tireless work on the project. And of course the donors also receive my gratitude: you have made a positive impact on church music in the Houston area that will last far into the future. Finally I should mention that the members of St. Philip Church are very lucky to listen every week to one of the best organists in the world, Matthew Dirst, playing on one of the best new organs in the world.

Congratulations to St. Philip Church and to Paul Fritts on a very successful project.

Sincerely yours, Robert Bates, Organ Consultant

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your kind report. The experience building this organ has been very rewarding for all of us here at the workshop. What an honor to be entrusted with the resources required to fund this project for so many months. We are particularly moved by the warmth and enthusiasm directed our way each day of the installation--we truly have a new Houston family. As you have correctly written, the organ would not be successful if the acoustical improvements had not been so thoroughly carried out during the renovation.

My greatest joy is to hear the organ during the services. One goal has been to support the singing in a way that is both full and colorful without the organ being hard sounding and overly intense. This quality is present in the finest historic instruments and achieving this has been a life long quest. This and many other things have worked out very well and I am very proud of this organ.

I am also very happy that the organ is becoming a tool for outreach, particularly its being available to students. They are the future and it means a great deal to me that the future of this great art form thrives.

I look forward to this weekend's festivities but mostly to seeing my St. Philip family.

Paul

May Hunger Offering

The recipient for the May 2nd hunger offering is SEARCH'S House of Tiny Treasures. In 1992, SEARCH opened the House of Tiny Treasures, Houston's first licensed early childhood development center exclusively serving homeless children ages 1 to 6 years and their families. It was created in response to this critical need by parents attending employment and education classes. The program is open to any parent who is homeless and working or participating in a job or educational program. In order to allow families adequate time to stabilize and gather necessary resources, children may stay in the program for two years after the family has achieved self-sufficiency. Employed parents pay a sliding scale fee during this time of transition.

The goal of House of Tiny Treasures is to equip each child with the skills needed to reach his or her maximum potential while assisting families in attaining and maintaining self-sufficiency in order to break this cycle of homelessness. This is achieved through a comprehensive array of services delivered in a coordinated fashion by an interdisciplinary team of professionals.

Please be generous with your donations to this most worthy program.

Very Important Sundays Coming!

St. Philip and Central Presbyterian Churches are uniting! After many months of work on the part of two Task Forces representing the two congregations, the Sessions and congregations approved the Union, and soon it will be reality.

Sunday, May 23rd, which is Pentecost Sunday, will be the last Sunday on which the two congregations will worship separately. Then, on **Sunday, May 30th**, there will be **one service of worship at 11:00 am** as the Presbytery of New Covenant celebrates our union, re-constitutes our Session, and installs our Pastor.

Be sure to make plans to be here for these historic days!

Youth News

SPY

There is lots going on at SPY! Join us on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 pm for dinner, fun and fellowship. Upcoming events include an overnighter and a trip to Kemah. See you at SPY!

YOUTH SUNDAY IS COMING!

Calling all youth! May 16 is the day youth take over worship, also known as Youth Sunday. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:45 am in the Youth Room to help plan our worship service. Seniors wishing to be a part of the Senior Sermon should contact Cindy Pope.

MISSION TRIP

Save the date! July 25-30 is our summer mission trip. Watch for more information soon.

For more on all youth meetings, programs and activities contact cindy@saintphilip.net.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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