

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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Houston, Texas
6 April 2009

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Pastor Emeritus

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Parish Associate

Rev. Gregory Crisp Han
Parish Associate

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Organist
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Holy Week Worship at St. Philip

April 9, 2009

Maundy Thursday Service and Service of Darkness in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 10, 2009

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 *or*

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

John 18:1 – 19:42

April 12, 2009

Easter/Resurrection of the Lord

Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 am

The Rev. Dr. William C. Poe, preaching

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *or* Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 *or* Mark 16:1-8

Easter Sunday Activities

The Education Commission is hosting a time for intergenerational fellowship on Easter Sunday. Beginning at 9:30 with a light breakfast, there will be craft activities for the children and an egg hunt at 10:20 on the playground.

Bring flowers to "Flower the Cross" which will be located just outside the Sanctuary.

Easter eggs may be donated for the hunt. Bring plastic eggs stuffed with stickers, small treats or candy to Judy Gunn's office by April 10th.

One Great Hour of Sharing Sharing Resources, Changing Lives Easter Sunday Offering

For 60 years Presbyterians have joined Christians around the world in supporting ministries of hunger, disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development through One Great Hour of Sharing. Our offering will be given to three denominational groups, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PDP), and the Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People. Through these ministries people can find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

For St. Philip, this offering is a part of our ongoing commitment to mission to those in need both here and abroad and reflects our hope for a brighter future for all.

Lectionary Readings

April 19, 2009

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133

1 John 2:1-2; John 20:19-31

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: **Ellen Red** at Methodist

Recuperating: **Glenn Hendrickson, Bill Slick, Paula Vuyk**

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

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

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

Please note: the church office will be closed on Monday, April 13, 2009.

The Monday Morning Saints Circle will meet on April 20 instead April 13.

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

Mark your calendar: Vacation Church School will be held August 3-7 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Children ages 2 years through 5th grade are invited to join us for a week of storytelling, music, art, fun with food, and recreation. Call Judy Gunn to volunteer as a teacher or youth helper and to register your child.

Announcing Presbyterian Theological Houston Extension Program's Spring Forum: "The Fundamentals of Fundamentalism" with Dr. Jill Carroll, Executive Director of the Boniuk Center for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance at Rice University on Sunday, April 26, 2009; 3:00-5:00 pm at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church Amphitheater. The event is free and open to the public.

The Philip-Eye will be published on April 20, 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.

From the Pastor's Study:

On the Thursday of Holy Week, known as "Maundy Thursday," we are reminded of one of the best-known sayings of Jesus: *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."*

So long as we limit that commandment to persons within our own small circle, we don't have too much trouble with it. But once the "one another" gets enlarged to include all kinds of people, including many kinds of people we have been taught to avoid, then there are some very real and difficult decisions to be made. The only "limit" set by Jesus was the limit of his own gracious love. How can we take the love of someone like that and claim it was meant only for one group or class of people and not for all?

And so we are faced with a dilemma, if we are to be people of the Christ. We can understand a God who acts in power and majesty to save people - God parting the sea, destroying Pharaoh's army, protecting Jerusalem against invading forces, rescuing the people from exile. This God who intervenes in history with mighty acts satisfies our expectation of who God is supposed to be. But we are brought up short by a God who saves people by displaying power through the birth of a baby whose life leads to suffering and death. We're supposed to call that *glory*?

But that is what we are expected to believe. In the life and death of Jesus, and especially in his death on the cross, God is glorified. In the Gospels, love is always cross-shaped. In Jesus' death, his disciples learned true love, and that love was intended to be the abiding mark of Christ's community.

We find it so easy to love our mirror images. *"Your friends are my friends, and my friends are your friends. The more we get together, the happier we'll be,"* we sing. But if every person in the Church had for every other love like Christ's love for him or her, the power of the Church's witness would be irresistible.

Happy Easter!

Yours in Christ, **Bill**

SPY Youth Group

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

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

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

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

Let's Identify Ourselves

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.

To start this process, name tags have been ordered for elders, both session and non-session, and those will be available on Easter Sunday. 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.

The tags are a lightweight metal, 3 ¼" x 1 ½", with magnetic fasteners. Plans are in place to have metal boards to which the tags can be affixed alphabetically and which will keep them in place until the next time they are needed.

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.

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

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 8

Ana Schick, Executive Director and Susan Lang, Clinical Director of Interface will speak about their organization and St. Philip's long history of involvement.

April 15

Mike Alexander will give a presentation on the issue of affordable housing in the Houston area for seniors.

Sunday School Classes

The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Meets in Room 200

Church & Society

Meets in Room 201

April 19, 26, May 31, June 7 and 21

"Perspectives on Immigration"

These classes have been conceived with two basic goals in mind: a comprehensive view of immigration with emphasis on information and a thoughtful dialogue within a Christian context.

(See page 4 for details.)

Bible Study

Meets in Room 204

A study of Genesis

led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop.

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Congratulations to **David Munson** and **Susan Chamberlin** who were married on March 14, 2009. David is the son of **Olivia** and **Joe Munson**.

Isabella Renee Ford was born Tuesday, March 24 to proud parents, **Omi** and **Robert Ford**.

Welcome new members **Jessica & Walker Fair** and **Connie Mayfield** who joined St. Philip March 29th.

Audrey Maxine Rudolph was born April 4 in Oakland, CA to **Erica** and **Bill Rudolph**. Proud grandmother is **Glenda Rudolph**.

The Hunger Offering received on April 5 benefiting Kid's Meals totaled \$1347.00. Thank you.

Welcome New Member...

After living in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area for several years, **Christine Gensch** has returned to Houston with her family and, on March 15, rejoined St. Philip.

Christine grew up in the St. Philip community where her grandparents, Marguerite and Bill Davis, as well as her mother, Meg Scott Johnson, were active members. After graduating from Southern Methodist University with a B.A. in marketing, she returned to Houston and was involved with the young adult group and as a youth leader at St. Philip. Christine and her husband, Scott, met at a local advertising agency's company bowling party and were married at St. Philip after a two-year courtship.

In 2000, the couple moved to Dallas where Christine joined Northridge Presbyterian (Scott is Catholic). In 2005, they were blessed with their first son, William "Liam" Gensch. As they were in the process of moving back to Houston for a new job opportunity, they learned that second son, Calum, was on the way. He arrived in March 2007 and was baptized at St. Philip.

Currently, Christine is working at Gulf States Toyota in its Marketing Department as Media Services Manager. Scott is in freelance advertising and screenwriting who works with multiple local advertising agencies and has completed two screenplays. Liam is now an inquisitive 3½ year old and Cal is a very active 2 year old. Christine says that, in spite of her busy schedule, she finds time to schedule yoga, jogging and prayer, which keeps her grounded. She enjoys "mommy" time, chatting with friends, scrapbooking, reading, watching movies and date nights with her husband. Their favorite family activities include nature walks, BBQs, art projects and going to museums and the zoo. Sounds like there must be more than 24 hours in a day for these folks.

Please let Christine and her family know how glad we are to have her back with her two boys.

Church and Society Class: Perspectives on Immigration

The Church and Society Class has scheduled, among diverse offerings for this spring and summer, five Sundays for talks on immigration, which counts among the most complex and controversial issues facing American society today. These classes have been conceived with two basic goals in mind: a comprehensive view of immigration with emphasis on information and a thoughtful dialogue within a Christian context. Outstanding spokespersons will address the topic from five perspectives: legal, economic, security, humanitarian and personal experience.

April 19: The classes will begin April 19 with Charles Foster, Co-Chairman of Foster Quan, L.L.P. and head of the Immigration Law Section of the firm, who will lay the foundation for the class series with a presentation on current Immigration law and practices. Mr. Foster serves as Board Member and is past national President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and is currently Chairman of the American Bar Association Coordinating Committee on Immigration Law and Vice-Chairman of the Houston Bar Foundation. He has been designated by *Texas Monthly* as a "Texas Super Lawyer" and by *Texas Lawyer* as the "Top Notch Lawyer in Immigration". Mr. Foster has been a principal advisor on immigration policies to both George W. Bush and President Obama. Among his many civic contributions, Mr. Foster chairs Americans for Immigration Reform, is Chair of the Asia Society-Texas Center and Trustee of the Asia Society-New York, is honorary Consul General of Thailand in Houston, serves as Director of the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston, and on the boards of the Institute of International Education, Inter-Faith Ministries and Neighborhood Centers.

April 26: Mr. Foster will be followed by 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 31: The perspective of business and economics will be addressed by Stan Marek, President and CEO of the Marek Family of Companies (one of the largest interior contractors in the southwest) and board member of numerous educational and charitable organizations, including President of the Boards of the Diocesan Foundation of the Galveston-Houston Diocese and the University of St. Thomas.

June 7: Alberto Cardenas will join us on June 7 to share both legal and personal experiences regarding immigration. Mr. Cardenas was a former staff counsel for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson and now serves as a public policy lawyer with a specialty on immigration for the firm of Vincent & Elkins.

June 21: The series will conclude with a representative from Immigration and Border Control who will speak to the challenging mission of the Border Control.

These visitors should provide a not-to-be-missed opportunity to become a more informed and caring Christian. **Classes for the Immigration Series will meet in the Dining Room.** Please join us and our visitors, bringing your questions and an open mind.

Enrichment Materials Available for the Immigration Series

Austin Seminary's Spring edition of INSIGHTS is totally devoted to the topic of Immigration with contributions from Ted Wardlaw, Seminary president, and several faculty members. Thanks to Bill Poe and James Cooper, copies have been purchased and circulated among Church and Society class members to read and return to St. Philip's library where others may check them out.

The PBS documentary 'Forgotten Ellis Island' is also being passed around and will be available in the library. These are enrichment materials for the coming series at St. Philip.

Dated Material

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