

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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Houston, Texas
24 May 2010

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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
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A "Watershed Event" Sunday, May 30, 2010

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.

On Sunday, May 30, there will be one service of worship at 11:00 am at the Presbytery of New Covenant celebrates our union, re-constitutes our Session and installs our Pastor. Be sure to be here for this historic day.

Our fellowship Commission invites everyone to a reception in the Gathering Area immediately following the worship service.

Congratulations to Our Graduating High School Seniors

Sarah Cherrillo, daughter of Sue Mitchell and Ralph Cherrillo, graduates from Stratford High School and will attend Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA.

Jonathan Eagleson, son of Guinn Blackwell Eagleson, is graduating from Bellaire High School and will be attending the Honors College at University of Houston, majoring in hotel and restaurant management, and pursuing a second major in classical guitar.

Elaine Flowers, daughter of Beth and Fort Flowers and granddaughter of Jeanie and Dan Flowers, will be graduated from St. John's School and will attend The University of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland.

George Albert Pepi son of Carrie and Al Pepi and grandson of Mary and Jim Bratton, has graduated Suma Cum Laude from Strake Jesuit College Prep and is planning to go to Tulane University in New Orleans in the fall to study history.

Please pray for these young people as they begin this next step in their life's journey.

Lectionary Readings

May 30, 2010

Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

June 6, 2010

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24); Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

June 13, 2010

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 21:1-10 (11-14) 15-21a
Psalm 5:1-8
Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

June 20, 2010

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

June 27, 2010

13th Sunday in Ordinary time
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Congregational Concerns:

Healthcare: **Louise Bradley** at Hallmark Healthcare.

Recuperating: **Bill Camfield, Nancy Lomax, Roy Nelson**

At home: **Penny Vieau**

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Andy and Doug Lockwood and Pam Washington and families** on the death of their mother, **Ann Taft Lockwood** on May 15; to **Joyce Fox and family** on the death of her sister, **Judy Uselton**, on May 17 in Nashville, TN; and to **Judy Seligmann and family** on the death of her husband, **John Seligmann**, on May 21, 2010.

Check These Announcements

The church office will be closed Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

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!!

Many, many thanks to fourteen people from St. Philip who served breakfast to the homeless on May 16th as part of the Lord of the Streets (LOTS) program at Trinity Episcopal Church. They are **Robin Angly, Linda Bevill, Skip Britton, Janet and Don Davis, Katie Ewing, Ruth Ewing, Tom Ewing, Jo Helland, Pam Keever, Tyler Keever, Bill Morris, Kay and Jim Vick**. If you would like to make a short term commitment, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying project. Our next date to serve is July 11th.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Save the Date!! The PrimeTimers and the Fellowship Commission have reserved a block of seats in the right field mezzanine at \$12 per seat for the Houston Astro-Atlanta Braves game on Wednesday, August 11th at 1:30 pm. The PrimeTimer bus will be available for anyone over age 50. Others may arrange carpools. Sign-up will begin after Mo-Ranch weekend!

Got Wheels? A member of our faith community who is unable to drive is in need of transportation to our Sunday worship services. She resides in the Reliant Stadium area. If you are available to assist, please let Mary Ann Thomas know. Ideally a rotation schedule of volunteers can be established.

From the Pastor's Study:

Dear St. Philip Family,

By the time you read this edition of the *Philip-Eye*, we will either be anticipating eagerly our union with Central Presbyterian Church, or celebrating its completion. As I mentioned on this past Sunday, this is a "watershed event" in the lives of our two congregations. Up to this point, we have been sister congregations, coming out of the two different streams of our Presbyterian tradition, brought together in the reunion of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1983, and now united as one congregation.

Welcome one another, all you people, with joy and thanksgiving!!

In addition, we seem to be in a season of baptisms! Anna Jane Leonardson, daughter of Susan Gartner and Pete Leonardson, granddaughter of Meredith Gartner and niece of Kelly Gartner, was baptized on May 9th. On June 13th, at Mo-Ranch, Madeline Irick, daughter of Amy Wennenwesser and Joel Irick and granddaughter of Jeanette and Max Wennenwesser, will be baptized along with her father, Joel. Then, on June 20th, two babies will be baptized - Adalynn Angly, daughter of Lizette and Etienne Angly and granddaughter of Robin Angly and Miles Smith; and Brandon Hoesl, son of Kim and Paul Hoesl. What a wonderful, rich time we are having!!

Of course, Betty Anne and I are looking toward our planned retirement at the end of June with both anticipation and sadness. We love you all, and it's hard for us to imagine not being a daily part of the life of this community of faith. However, we won't be far away, and we'll be back at the drop of a hat (at the Session's invitation)!

We look forward to an exciting June, with joyous worship in our newly united congregation, and meaningful service together in the Spirit of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Bill

Good News from Community of the Servant-Savior: After the April 8 devastating fire, the congregation of the Community of the Servant-Savior will be worshipping in a temporary building beginning May 30! Our Session has approved a donation of \$1,000 to assist the church in the purchase of items needed for worship.

The Philip-Eye will be published on June 7 and 21. Please submit information and articles in a timely manner. 10:00 am on the day of publication is the deadline. E-mail information to philip-eye@saintphilip.net or leave in the PE box in the mail room.

Youth Sunday A Memorable Worship Service

On May 16th the youth prepared and led our Service of Worship.

High School seniors Sarah Cherrillo and Elaine Flowers preached memorable sermons of thanks and gratitude for their years of growing up in the St. Philip community of faith.

The Children's Choir and the Youth Choir provided wonderful music.

The Confirmands, Barclay Davis, Dillion Junkin, Paxton Lambright, Bennett Johnson and Wallace Pepi were recognized and the congregation used for the Affirmation of Faith a compilation of their Faith Statements which is printed below.

I believe God is greater than our complete understanding, but I believe God is a living God, a ruling God, and a caring God. God is always with us.

I believe that Jesus was God in the flesh. He is our Lord and Savior. While he was living on earth, he showed us what God is like. Jesus is our brother because he is fully human. Jesus was betrayed by his own brothers, but he forgave - and because of that we can live in heaven. I know that Jesus loves me and is always with me. I hope he will always guide me and be with me when I make choices.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who enables everyone of every kind to become a believer. The Holy Spirit is the force that sets us free from sin and brings believers from all over the world together in the name of God. The Holy Spirit knows us and can be described as our soul or conscience. The Holy Spirit reminds us of God in our lives.

The Lutheran Church, the Baptist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Catholic Church, in fact all Christian Churches have different opinions and beliefs about God and how their churches should be run. However, God puts us on this earth to teach and spread the Word of God. Therefore we are not segregated by the names of our churches but united by the name of God and what God calls us to do.

I believe that I, with millions of others, am God's people. I believe that God asks me to do God's bidding on earth - to inform humanity about God's work, to help the poor, support the weak, and educate the young about the wonder God brings us. For God is divine and has done His bidding through Adam and Eve, Moses, Jonah, and Jesus Christ, and continues this day through me, my brothers, and sisters.

We thank God for these young people and hold them in our prayers.

Hallelujah!

CORNER

On May 31, 2010, **Marty and Bob Coyle** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

We celebrate the service to St. Philip of **Pat and Mike Gabel** and wish them well as they relocate to Moscow, Russia for four years prior to Mike's retirement.

Fourth Annual Concert for Peace

"We are committed to principles of inclusiveness, believing that God's love embraces everyone"

from "The Commitment to Peacemaking"

2003 - St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

The Fourth Annual Concert for Peace will be held on Saturday evening October 2, 2010 in the Sanctuary of St. Philip Presbyterian Church starting at 7:30 pm. The Concert for Peace combines music, poetry and meditative silence into an evening of spiritual and contemplative adventure. The Concert for Peace reflects our collective intention to put thought and prayer into action. We spend an evening in celebration of those aspects of ourselves that motivate us to be peacemakers. As people of different faith traditions converge into one space, we recognize that peacemakers must take risks and that the actions called for in following our core principles sometimes put us at odds with those who would exclude some from the peace of God's love. Our intention is to energize, inspire, expand and extend our peace consciousness.

This year's vocal music will be performed by the Moores School of Music Concert Chorale from the University of Houston under the direction of Betsy Cook Weber. Additional organ music will be performed (on the recently dedicated Fritts Pipe Organ) by a graduate student from the Moores School of Music under the supervision and instruction of Matthew Dirst. The overall program will be under the guidance and direction of Justin Smith, Director of Music at St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

The poetry selections will feature works by Rich Levy, Poet and Executive Director of Inprint, Houston's leading literary arts organization; Fady Joudah, M.D. Poet, author and translator of the poetic works of the Palestinian poet, Mahmoud Darwish; and Martha Serpas, Professor of Poetry, University of Houston, Creative Writing Program and author of two books of poetry. Martha has a divinity degree and has served as a trauma hospital chaplain.

This year's Concert for Peace is the opening concert in the new "Music at St. Philip" Concert Series. Please save the date and join us for the start of this inspirational season.

Mo-Ranch Update

by Mike Alexander

Mo-Ranch is just around the corner, and we are excited! In my enthusiasm for the weekend, I thought we were feeding the multitudes. So, please disregard our request for so many snacks. Thursday night is covered. I will need snacks for children for Friday night and snacks for all on Saturday night. If you are willing to provide snacks, please let me know. Thanks for all your help.

This is a reality weekend as we discuss "When Life meets Faith". On Friday evening from 6:30-9:30 pm, we are offering two activities that will seem like you are in a reality check for The Amazing Race. Adults and youth, age 10 and older will have the opportunity to take on the challenge of the "Big Gulp", a 52 foot tall swing into nature and the "Zip 480", two side by side 480 foot long Zip Lines. A pulley is attached to a cable and you ride the cable until the end. These two events require releases. If a child is attending without a parent, then a release should be signed before coming to Mo-Ranch. The other event for Friday evening for families with younger children and others will be a Mo-Ranch Scavenger Hunt.

On Saturday evening we will be "Dancing with the Stars". We are looking for contestants. Costumes are welcomed and encouraged for this evening of fun. Yes, children can provide us with wonderful dances including the "chicken dance", "Macarena" or even the "twist". Judges will be announced at the event. Scoring for this one should be fun. You are more than welcome to teach a "line dance" such as the "Boot Scootin Boogie". The evening will have great high lights and wonderful humor. Please bring your music with you. After the judging will be an evening of dance and surprises.

Mo-Ranch booklets containing all the information you need about getting there, what to do while you are there and where to find other retreaters, will be available in the Gathering Area on May 30 and June 6. Pick up yours and bring it to Mo with you

Contributions to the "Mo Shower" will be accepted in the Gathering Area May 30 and June 6. Mo-Shower is a gift given by St. Philip to Mo-Ranch each year for their use for incidentals. It is always greatly appreciated.

This is St. Philip's 35th anniversary of family camp at Mo-Ranch. Let's make this a memorable year! Please email Mike Alexander if you can help with any or all of the above (almike@swbell.net).

National Cancer Survivor's Day June 6, 2010

Cancer Cannot

(a Litany)

Cancer is so limited...

It cannot cripple love

It cannot shatter hope

It cannot corrode faith

It cannot eat away peace

It cannot destroy confidence

It cannot kill friendship

It cannot hinder compassion

It cannot shut out memories

It cannot silence courage

It cannot invade the soul

It cannot reduce that which is eternal

It cannot quench the spirit

Cancer is so limited!

It cannot lessen the power

of God's healing, reconciling love.

Thanks be to God.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

June	16 Leslie Taylor
2 Emily Hannah	18 Sally Slick
3 Mary Bratton	18 Lynn Red
4 Pat Lindsay	18 Carrie Pepi
6 Carol Dean	19 Roger Rodiek
6 Connie Anderson	21 Julie Shepherd
8 Mark Taylor	22 Sue Baier
8 Laura Keller	22 Mary M. Hansen
10 Maren Jones	23 George Pepi
13 Jim Bratton	24 David McKelvey
13 Gene McKelvey, Sr.	24 James McKelvey
13 David Castle	25 Carolyn McGinnis
13 Sasha Arlinghaus	25 Bill Poe
13 Kristy Forbes Vits	26 Malcolm Host
14 Jack Dean	28 Caitlin Peavy
14 Marymac Johnson	28 Don Barker
15 Monica Ajak	

Travel to Edinburgh and York in 2011

All those interested in **accompanying the choir on our singing trip to Edinburgh, Scotland and York, England, from May 25th-June 7th, 2011, are reminded that the deadline to secure a spot is June 15th.** A \$250.00 deposit - fully refundable - will hold your place for this magnificent journey we are planning together....

The total cost will be between \$3024-\$3125, depending on how many people sign up, and can be paid via installment plan. The cost covers all transportation, lodging and breakfast. Checks can be made out to St. Philip and put in Justin Smith's box. Any questions, please contact Justin at the church or eroica999@gmail.com."

May 30 Film Study: *Up in the Air*
Led by Kate Burkart
9:30 in Room 201

One of Christianity Today's ten most redeeming films of 2009, and #4 in Christianity Today's critic's choice awards 2009, *Up in the Air* wrestles with timely questions about commitments to work, family, and significant other, with elements of humor, satire, and underplayed drama.

Ryan Bingham skillfully helps others find hope and meaning in unemployment, yet can't find any in his own cocoon—though there's hope even for him. The core characters may not always behave honorably, but that's the point of this cautionary parable about investing more in selfish pursuits than in relationships.

Visit your preferred video rental source, watch the film with your full attention within a week of our study, and come prepared to share your thoughts. Consider these questions to help guide your viewing and our study.

To train yourself to watch a film closely, try using this "opening shots" exercise for the title sequence:

People: Who is present?

Time: When does the scene take place?

Location(s): Where does it take place?

Events: What happens?

Mood: What is the atmosphere of the scene?

Other: What else do you see?

Questions: What would you like to know?

Film is text. How do the filmmakers' choices in the following arts convey the film's message?

- Locations/production design
- Editing
- Shot compositions, cinematography, color palette
- Dialogue/soundtrack
- Wardrobe

How do you see the following spiritual dimensions in the world of the story?

- Connections
- Hope
- Love
- Meaning
- Compassion

How are genders and social and economic classes portrayed? What power relationships exist in the film? Can you detect patterns in the distribution and use of power? Are there patterns of dependency among certain groups? On whom are they dependent? Does this seem to be a problem in the film, or simply taken for granted?

How do we experience life? What is the world like? What has value? How are we to live our lives? According to the film, what is the purpose of life?

How do the filmmakers convey their vision of right and wrong? What actions would the filmmaker put in each category? What is the source of the moral code in the world of the film?

Up in the Air is rated R for language and some sexual content.

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!

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 30

Kate Burkart

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

(see article adjacent column)

June 6

Human Trafficking: Ruben Perez, Assistant US

Attorney; Deputy Coordinator

Human Trafficking:

Understanding Modern-Day Slavery

This presentation is offered to educate participants

about the extent of the human trafficking problem throughout the world and in our local community.

The trafficking of humans is a recognized and fast increasing crime problem both nationally

and in the southern part of Texas, which shares hundreds of miles of border with Mexico.

Houston, a central repository for trafficking victims and a main thoroughfare to other cities, is located a short drive from the Texas/Mexico border.

The smuggling of humans across the border has long been a problem in the southern portion of Texas. It is now apparent that the transporting of

many of those being smuggled was against their will or these individuals were being held in

captivity, forced to turn over all their wages, and/or forced into labor activities against their will. Many

of these are the most vulnerable -- women and children -- forced into prostitution. In order to

combat this horrendous crime, we need the eyes of everyone in the community to be alert and to report

any suspicious activity. Please attend this presentation and learn how you can help.

June 13

Mo-Ranch retreat weekend: No class

June 20

Multi-cultural church:

The Rev. Tim Phillips, Multi-cultural Cafe,

Presbytery of New Covenant