

# PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church  
Volume 54, Number 13

Houston, Texas  
21 June 2010

**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  
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## Getting a Head Start on the CIF for a New Senior Minister

We all know that Bill Poe is retiring as of the end of June. We wish him and Betty Anne well in this new phase of their lives, despite our feelings about them leaving.

But, St. Philip now needs to deal with moving forward together.

The process of calling a new Senior Minister is time consuming - perhaps up to a year. One of the first things we must do is to prepare a comprehensive Church Information Form (called a CIF for short). In common vocabulary, this advertises our job to the denomination; but more importantly, it requires that we think deeply about our Church, its Pastor, and our future together.

The Session formed a "Draft CIF Task Force" and asked Bill Lee and Randy Steward to lead it. Their job is to collect the required information and present it as a DRAFT to the Pastor Nominating Committee (called the PNC for short) when it is formed, likely in August. The PNC then may want to gather additional information. That's their prerogative. They will be responsible for the final results. The Task Force is just helping the PNC get started on the process.

The CIF requires answers to eight questions. The Task Force would like to get your input on these.

The questions are of two types.

1. First, about the congregation. What does the congregation think about the future of St. Philip in terms of our mission, programs, and key theological issues that are reflected in our ministry?

2. Second, about the pastor. What does the congregation think about the characteristics, qualifications, and skills needed in a new Senior Minister?

The Task Force will collect information from the congregation using a survey and what (for lack of a better term) is being called a "congregational dialogue."

1. Survey. The Task Force  
(continued on page 3)

### Lectionary Readings

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

July 4, 2010

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30  
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16;  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11, 2010

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 18, 2010

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52  
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 25, 2010

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85  
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

### St. Philip Summer Lecture Series

August 29 and 30, 2010

The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick

Mark Your Calendar!

Visit our website @  
[www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)

### Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: **Bob Coyle** at St. Luke's; **Elizabeth Moreno**, former St. Philip member, at St. Luke's.

In Healthcare: **Louise Bradley, Frank Donnelly,** and **Barbara Glenn** at Hallmark; **Lola Scott** and **Mary Louise Wade** at The Hampton on Post Oak; **Ruth Siciliano** at Bayou Manor.

Recuperating: **Bill Camfield, Betty Anne Poe**

At home: **Penny Vieau**

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Lynn and Stuart Red** and **Martha Red** on the death of their cousin, **Robbin Parish**, on June 12; to **Dick Weber** and family on the death of his sister, **Celia Weber Campagnoni**, on June 17 in California; to **Jeanette Wennenwaser** and family on the death of her aunt, **Roberta Wilson**, on June 17.

### 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!!

**There will be one Service of Worship on June 27, at 11:00 am.**

**Volunteer Opportunity - Lord of the Streets (LOTS):** The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is **Sunday, July 11**. 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 July 11 is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying mission project.

**All 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](http://www.moranch.com). Register by phone at 1.800.460.4401; email [program@moranch.com](mailto:program@moranch.com).

**Save the Date: St. Philip Mo-Ranch family retreat 2011 – June 9-12.**

**The Philip-Eye will be published** on July 6 (Tues.) and 19. 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](mailto:philip-eye@saintphilip.net) or leave in the PE box in the mail room.

### From the Pastor's Study:

It has been more than eleven years since the first Sunday I shared with the congregation of St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, will be the last Sunday I will have the privilege to be in your pulpit and to share worship with you. Leaving this church family of ours is a painful thing, even though we are excited about the new opportunities for rest, travel, and time with family that await us in retirement.

I want to use this means of speaking to all of you dear friends who receive this newsletter to say a heartfelt "Thank You" for all the love, support, and warm friendship we have experienced here within the family of St. Philip. The feelings shared and gifts given over the past few weeks have been both exhilarating and humbling. The laughter and tears, the stories we have told and re-told, and the deep friendships we have celebrated will continue to warm and sustain us. You will always be a part of us, and we will always remember you with great affection. We look forward to enjoying continuing relationships with one another in many ways over the years to come. We're not going far, so invite us back from time to time!

I have said several times through this "good-bye" process that you have been an easy congregation to love, and that says a lot. You have been willing to share yourselves with us, and for that we are eternally grateful. We are grateful also for the privilege you have afforded us to share ourselves with you.

Betty Anne and I and our family will always have a special place in our hearts for the congregation of St. Philip Presbyterian Church. We are confident that God will continue to bless you richly in worship, study, fellowship, and service.

Yours in Christ, **Bill**

### A Cool July 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday for the PrimeTimers

Enjoy Good Company- Mexican Food –  
and A New Disney Movie.

Café Adobe has reserved a space for us  
to order our favorite Mexican food dishes.

After lunch we can walk next door to the

Edwards Marq\*E 23 theatre to see

Walt Disney's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

This innovative and epic comedy adventure is  
about a sorcerer and his hapless apprentice  
who are swept into the center of an ancient  
conflict between good and evil.

Sign up in the church office to join us.

Time 12:00 noon.

Cost: \$7 plus cost of your lunch.

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will survey the congregation in two ways.

- a. Via E-Mail: a survey will be sent to everyone for whom St. Philip has an e-mail address.
- b. On paper: some people do not use e-mail, so the Task Force will have paper surveys available in the Narthex on Sundays, July 11 and 18. Please let them know if you will not be here and want one to be mailed to you.

We urge you to participate. All replies will be strictly anonymous.

2. The Task Force then will conduct a Congregational Dialogue on Sunday, July 18. Those who would like to participate are asked to join the Task Force after Church (both services) for a dialogue about these questions.

The Task Force will communicate more information several times over the next month or so. Now, they just want to make you aware of what's happening. You'll hear much more as the process goes forward to identify and call a new Senior Minister.

### **"Thank You" to St. Philip A Note from Jim Currie**

Words are inadequate to express the gratitude I have to St. Philip for the hospitality you have demonstrated in letting me office here. For the past five years you have housed Austin Seminary's Houston Extension Program, and you did so at no charge. What a magnanimous gesture!

You have welcomed me here, and I have enjoyed getting to know many of you. Special thanks to Bill Poe, Karen St. Laurent, and Nancy Craig for their kindness in sharing their office space with me.

As I move my books and files out of the administrative offices of St. Philip, I leave with a greater appreciation for the ministry that goes on here and for all of you who are engaged in that ministry. Certainly, Paul's words to "practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13) are heeded here.

Many, many thanks! And may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

### **Take Me Out to the Ball Game**

**Reserve a place now.**

**Deadline to pay July 12th.**

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 1:00 pm.

The PrimeTimer bus will be available  
for anyone over age 50.

Other church members  
may meet at the church and arrange carpools.

## **Hallelujah!**

CORNER

**Jill** and **Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth** and big brother, **Arden**, welcomed **Trudy Jill** to their loving home on June 8, 2010 in Kalamazoo, MI. Joyous grandparents are **Hope** and **Lance Wilmarth**.

On Sunday, June 13, at Mo-Ranch, **Madeleine Irick** and her father, **Joel Irick** received the Sacrament of Baptism. Proud mother/wife is **Amy Irick** and Madeliene's grandparents are **Jeanette** and **Max Wennnenweser**.

On Sunday, June 20, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to **Brandon Hoesl**, son of **Kim** and **Paul Hoesl**.

**Emily Wilmarth**, daughter of **Hope** and **Lance Wilmarth**, has been called to be the Associate Minister for Youth at The Presbyterian Church, Westfield, NJ.

### **Vacation Church School July 26 -30 9:00 am to 12:00**

The theme for the week, GALACTIC BLAST: A COSMIC ADVENTURE PRAISING GOD!, is an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that brings children into a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We will gather each day in Room 11. Children ages 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to participate. Younger children may attend if a parent is working in the school.

Please call the church to register your children, grandchildren, and friends. If you would like to participate as a teacher or shepherd contact Judy Gunn at the church.

## Church Library Update

On Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Central Presbyterian Church library was moved to its new home at St. Philip. The merging of two strong theological libraries will result in a new library focused on the mission of Christian education of a strong combined church.

Currently, the adult non-fiction from both libraries is in the main library space, and the adult fiction and youth materials are in the youth Sunday school room adjacent to the library.

For the next six months a team of volunteers will be working to bring the combined collection back into the main library space. This will involve the following tasks.

1. Interfiling and de-duplicating the collections in their current rooms.
2. Creating a collection plan based on the mission and goals developed by a congregation task force.
3. Reducing the merged collection based on the collection plan and the space available.
4. Combining the library catalogs.

It is anticipated that the majority of material that will be removed from the collection will be popular material without any identified theological focus and older outdated material that has not reached classic status. The majority of this type of material is in the former St. Philip collection.

The team that is working to merge the library can use your help in the following ways:

- If you have books to donate to the church library, please hold them until we finish merging the collections.

- Volunteer to help with the huge task of merging the libraries. All ages are welcome. Contact Judith Hiott at [judith.hiott@houstontx.gov](mailto:judith.hiott@houstontx.gov) or 713-869-0721.

The library will continue to be open and available for you to use, but it will be in two rooms and in a continuous state of flux for some time. Please pardon the dust and inconvenience this causes.

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## Good News from Mexico

The school to train nurses aides is part of St. Philip's mission in the Yucatan along with Bethesda Clinic and the Bible School to train lay pastors.

This note has recently been received from friends Jose and Gracita Estrella. *Dear friends: You had been a part of the Nurses Aid School in Xocenpich. The history continues. Your support and prayers have been answered. We are at the end of another school year. Our final activity will be held on July 10th. You are invited to come and join us. Blessings to you all.*

## A Big Round of Applause and a Heap of Thanks

Mo-Ranch, 2010 marked our 35<sup>th</sup> year of attendance with our church family. It was successful because of all the people involved that made it fun. Many thanks to the committee for all their hard work: Jeanie Flowers, Susan Estill, Kristy Vits, Judy Gunn, Cindy Pope, Amye Webster, Carol and Charles Lucas, Tom Lewis, Paul Pennington, and Miles Frey.

Many thanks to all the volunteers for devotionals, prayers and interest groups: Martha Hargraves, Cathy Herrera, Lauren Perenyi, Cindy Pope, Judith Hiott, Mary Sinderson, Sandra Cooper, Meg Scott Johnson, Justin Smith, and Cletus Johnson. For all those volunteers who worked with the children, we cannot say enough to show our appreciation.

Dieter Heizl, our keynote speaker gave us lots to think about "When Life Meets Faith".

Mo-Ranch is all about relationship and the building of community. Thanks to all those attendees that made that a realization. And thank you to the Mo-Ranch staff for all their hard work and efforts to make our weekend special, especially the Ropes Course Staff.

Please pick up an evaluation for this year and return it to the office, so that we can start our planning for next year.

The dates for 2011 are June 9-12. Save the date and put it on your calendar now. Only 343 days until Mo!

Ed. Note: A big "thank you" to Michael Alexander for chairing the committee and ensuring a great Mo-Ranch experience.

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## Youth News

### Summer with SPY

We kick off our summer "Lunch with SPY" on Thursday, June 17. We'll meet at Five Guys Burger and Fries (located behind the church) for the first of our summer lunches. Join us from noon to 1:00 pm for food and fellowship. Future summer events include possible trips to the beach, movie days and more. Don't miss out on the summer fun. See you at SPY!

### SPY Summer Mission Trip

Join us on our summer SPY mission trip to San Antonio, TX, from July 28 - 31. We will participate in local service projects and learn more about Presbyterian mission effort in the San Antonio Area. Make a difference - sign up for our mission trip! For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact Cindy Pope.

For more on all youth meetings, programs and activities contact Cindy Pope at [Cindy@saintphilip.net](mailto:Cindy@saintphilip.net).

## Church School Classes for All

Classes Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am

### Classes for Children

Nursery through ages 3-4

Room 7-8.

The Wee Believe Summer material will be used.

### Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grades

Children's Choir room on the 2nd floor of the Administration Building  
Children will work with Justin Smith, Rachel Kimbro and Rob Kimbro on the musical *Moses and the Freedom Fighters*.  
CD's of the music are available for use at home or in the car.

### Youth Classes

Junior High and Senior High

Café SPY.

Rooms 205/206 in Education Building.

### Adult Classes

*Please note that all classes begin at 9:30.*

### The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Room 200 in the Education Building

This class is studying "Living the Questions".

Leadership is on a rotating basis.

### Bible Study

Room 204 in the Education Building

The class will resume after Labor Day.

### Church and Society

Room 201 in the Education Building

#### June 27

Immigration reform:

The Metropolitan Organization,  
Houston religious leaders group

#### July 4

A just alternative to sentencing youth to life in prison without the possibility of parole  
led by Mary Sinderson

#### July 11

Multi-cultural Church continued  
led by the Rev. Tim Phillips

#### July 18

Michelle Shonbeck, CCSC's Director  
will be reviewing the book

"A Framework for Understanding Poverty"  
by Ruby Payne, Ph.D

#### July 25

Michelle Shonbeck will provide an overview of Christian Community Service Center's seven programs to combat poverty and will include relevant stories to illustrate the agency's mission.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July	16 McNair Johnson
1 Walker Fair	17 Julieana Lawson
2 Amye Webster	18 Laura McKay
2 Sarah Hannah	19 Marian Murphree
4 Randy Steward	19 Daniel Flowers
5 Lindsay Hunt	19 Leah Nancy Bream
Koczenasz	20 Martha Ann
6 Frank Donnelly	Marshall
7 Michael Purcell	20 Todd Crouse
8 Louise Bradley	21 Diana Herzog
8 Carla Burns	22 Bob McHone
8 Tyler Keever	23 Martha Hargraves
9 Paul Pennington	24 Jim Vick
11 Beverly Hudson	25 Bill Lee
13 Gene McKelvey	26 Sharon Coufal
13 Connie Mayfield	27 Stuart Lang
15 Laura Lomax Bream	29 Bill O'Dell
16 Travis Calhoun	29 Abigail Flowers
16 Joan Boelens	

Please note: We would like to celebrate all birthdays in these pages. If you would like to be included, please call the church office or email [karen@saintphilip.net](mailto:karen@saintphilip.net)

## Making a Trip East This Summer? Consider a Montreat Conference

### Faithful Politics, August 8-11

"If God Doesn't Quit When Things Get Political, Why Do We?" For all the talk about faith and politics in the media, there are precious few conversations in our congregations about faithful political engagement. This is not a conference about particular issues, political partisanship, or choosing sides. It is a conference that calls us to trust in the messiness of politics, from the congregation to the city council to the Congress.

### Church Unbound, August 11-14

"Becoming a Gospel Force in the World." If we believe God yearns to turn the church loose to be a Gospel force in the world, how can we partner in what God is doing? Featuring author, speaker, and pastor Brian McLaren.

For details and registration for either of these conferences contact Montreat Conference Center, PO Box 969, Montreat, NC 28757; 800.572.2257; [www.montreat.org](http://www.montreat.org).