

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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Houston, Texas
29 June 2009

Welcome Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits

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
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

Susan Estill
Newsletter Editor
philip-eye@saintphilip.net

Visit our website @
www.saintphilip.net

Two July 5th Celebrations at Noon in the Gathering Area

Happily welcoming our new Interim Associate Pastor, Kristy Forbes Vits, and her family, Logan and Nathan, as she starts her ministry with the St. Philip community.

and
Happy Birthday to our country,
233 years old, with a post-
Independence Day July 4th
Dessert Birthday Party for all!

July 5th Hunger Offering

Our hunger offering recipient for July is SEARCH, an interfaith organization with the mission of providing tools and opportunities for the homeless to change their lives and enhance their dignity and self-worth. SEARCH operates outreach services through the mobile outreach program and resource center with the goal of providing basic needs to develop trust and relationships with homeless people. SEARCH's housing, job training, education and childcare programs are all designed to provide support to those homeless people who have chosen to become productive citizens in the community. St. Philip became a Covenant member of SEARCH in 2002 following an exploration of ways that we could best be involved in the needs of the homeless in Houston.

Your donations of non-perishable food and money on Sunday, July 5th will be greatly appreciated.

Welcome Kristy as she begins a one year term as our interim associate pastor. Kristy is the daughter of former St. Philip pastor, Bill Forbes and his wife Patty.

A graduate of SMU and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Kristy has done post-graduate work at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, where she has been serving congregations for the past nine years. She and her husband, Logan, are the parents of 3½ year old Nathan, who has been in our prayers all of his life because of serious problems with his windpipe and breathing from the time of his birth. Happily, Nathan has completed a long series of surgeries and is doing very well!

Kristy's special areas of expertise and experience center around the educational ministries of the church, and she will be placing particular emphasis in those areas during her time with us. She will also be sharing in general pastoral responsibilities with Bill Poe. One of the important tasks Kristy will be helping our officers with over the coming months is a thorough study of what our needs are in an Associate Pastor, so that, when the time comes, we will have a better idea of the type of person for whom and the skill set for which we need to be searching.

Kristy has written the following about the type of congregation in and with which she would like to serve: "I am interested in serving an enthusiastic congregation with a passion for education. As a believer and tireless learner myself, I truly believe that education is at the core of the Christian experience. I relish and value both teaching and learning, and I am vitally concerned with how the church approaches the task of teaching at all age levels. I want to answer the call of a congregation that not only cares for its members, but one that also reaches out to communicate God's embracing love for the world to all people."

Pray for the Vits family as Kristy begins her ministry with us.

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: **Keith Weber** at The Right Step.

Recuperating: **Jane English**

At home: **Grayson Anderson, Bill Boren, Pat Fortney, Herb Scott, Penny Vieau.**

In Iraq and Afganistan: **Ken Evans**, Tamara Arlinghaus' father; **John Bruyere**, Jane English's grandson; Warren Wallingford's stepson, **Chris Echols**; **Travis Keever**, Pam and Frank Keever's son.

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Pat Fortney and family** on the death of her husband, **Chuck Fortney** on June 16th.

Elizabeth "Lib" Minter died June 22nd in Austin at the age of 98. Lib and husband, Rev. John Minter were active in the life of St. Philip in the 1970's.

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!

The church office will be closed Friday, July 3rd in celebration of Independence Day.

Presbyterian night at the Astros, Saturday, August 22; a 6:05 game with the Arizona Diamondbacks. \$2 from each ticket sold will benefit Presbytery of New Covenant's IKE Recovery efforts.

Volunteer Opportunity with Lord of the Streets (LOTS): The next date to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, July 12. 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. We need 12-15 volunteers. If this date is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713 464-2385 to take part in this gratifying project.

Vacation Church School, August 3-7, 10:00 am-12:30 pm for children ages three through fifth grade. Bible study, music, crafts, recreation, food, and fun will define our week. Contact Judy Gunn to register your children, grandchildren, and their friends at 713-622-4807 x 303 or judy@saintphilip.net.

The Philip-Eye will be published July 13 and 27. Please submit information and articles in a timely manner. E-mail to philip-eye@saintphilip.net or leave in the PE box in the mail room.

St. Philip Summer Lecture Series August 2-3, 2009

Come and hear from "one of the great theologians of our time," The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, who will offer reflections and thoughts in a series of talks titled *Deep and Wide: Living Into God's Amazing Grace*.

As Christian believers, we claim that we are saved "by grace alone." But what does that mean for us, in our daily lives of faith? In this lecture series, we will use the metaphor of a swimming pool to explore what is at stake, for us, in participating in the grace of God. We will first consider what *risks* there are, as we stand at the edge of the pool, wondering whether or not we should jump in. Then we will face, head-on, the *cost* of plunging into that water. Surfacing again, we will look at the *promises* associated with being fully immersed - baptized! - looking out at the glistening surface that stretches beyond. Finally, we will talk about swimming. What are the *practices* of grace that help us stay afloat, in the water, doing laps that are the fruit of living into our identity? The goal of the series is to gain a better appreciation of the depth of God's grace, as well as a better understanding of how we - as God's baptized children - can enjoy its benefits.

Dr. Rigby will preach on August 2 at the 8:30 and 11:00 am services and will lecture on August 2 and August 3 at 7:00 pm. Dinner will be available for \$7 at 6:00 pm on Sunday.

About the Speaker: Professor Cynthia Rigby joined the faculty of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1995. In a 2006 Dallas Morning News article, Rigby was cited as one of the great theologians of our time. Rigby's special area of interest is setting Reformed theologies in conversation with theologies of liberation. An energetic scholar, Rigby is the author of more than thirty articles and book chapters. Professor Rigby is a sought-after speaker who enjoys lecturing and teaching for academic, church, and denominational events both domestically and internationally. An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Professor Rigby most recently served as a member of the General Assembly taskforce that authored "The Trinity: God's Love Overflowing," a document that articulates the relevance of Trinitarian doctrine to our lives of faith today. Professor Rigby received the PhD in systematic theology from Princeton Theological Seminary where she was awarded a doctoral fellowship and the Wildrich Award for Excellence in Homiletics. She earned her MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary, and her AB, magna cum laude, from Brown University, where she was received into Phi Beta Kappa.

Prime Timers to Visit Holly Hall on July 9th

Betty Moreton, a current Advisory Board member of Holly Hall, has arranged a July visit to their facility. Holly Hall is a Christian Retirement Community founded sixty years ago by concerned Houston church leaders. Holly Hall does not receive federal, state or United Way assistance and is therefore dependent upon the generosity of churches and church members to help cover the "cost of care" for those residents who can no longer afford this care. St. Philip's Presbyterian Women includes Holly Hall in their budget each year.

Holly Hall provides a continuum of care for senior adults, offering Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Healthcare accommodations. Having recently completed a major renovation and reconstruction, Holly Hall has space available in every area of care. We will be touring the facilities on July 9th, and have been invited to be their guests for lunch in their lovely dining room.

Call 713-622-4807 or sign up at the church office. Hope to see you July 9th.

P.S. Our own minister, Bill Poe, had a mother and two aunts who lived at Holly Hall!

Church School Classes for All Ages Sunday Mornings 9:30 am

Classes for Children

Nursery – 4 years old
Rooms 8-9

Elementary and Youth

"The Jonah Project"
Room 105

"Oh, Jonah!" is a fun musical with upbeat songs that are appealing to the fun side in everyone.

Activities will include the children studying the Bible story, learning the music, helping design and create the sets and costumes, and learning the choreography.

Our goal is to present the production on Rally Day, September 13 during Church School.

Adult Classes

The SPa (St. Philip Adults)

Room 200 in the Education Building

Church and Society

Room 201 in the Education Building

July 5

"The Spiritual Reading of Modern/Abstract Art"
led by Bill Camfield

July 12

Class on the subject of "Addiction"

July 19

Celebrating John Calvin's 500th Birthday
"Calvin vs. Calvinism" led by Jim Currie

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Congratulations to **Susan** and **Pete Leonardson** on the birth of their daughter, **Anna Jane Leonardson**, on June 24th in Seattle. Proud grandmother is **Meredith Gartner** and beaming aunt is **Kelly Gartner**.

Welcome new member **Dr. Susan Lange** who joined St. Philip on June 28th.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study Workshops

Horizons Study 2009-2010
"Joshua: A Journey of Faith"

Friday, August 21 at John Knox, 2525 Gessner
Registration 9:00-9:30; Workshop, snacks 9:30-1:00
RSVP required. Linda Tatlor: 281 496-3174 or
bbugtaylor@sbcglobal.net

For additional information, contact Sondra Sullivan.

SPY: SUMMER C.I.A. is Here!

Don't forget! July 8-9 is the date of our Galveston Overnighter. Along with a trip to the beach and Schlitterbahn, we will participate in a service project at First Presbyterian Church of Galveston. If you have not yet received a registration form you may pick one up at the church office. Space is limited so sign up today!

Coming soon - Laser tag!

For more information, contact Cindy Pope at 713-622-4807x309 or Cindy@saintphilip.net.

Lectionary Readings

July 5, 2009

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 12, 2009

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 19, 2009

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26, 2009

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21