

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
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St. Philip Summer Lecture Series Presents Dr. Cynthia Rigby

On August 2 and 3 come and hear from "one of the great theologians of our time," The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Rigby 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, reservations required. Child care is available, call the church office.

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.

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
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Ministries

Karen St. Laurent
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www.saintphilip.net

Lectionary Readings

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

Vacation Church School

August 3-7
10:00 am-12:30 pm

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.

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: **Ellen Red** at Houston Medical Center Hospice.

At home: **Bill Boren, Penny Vieau**

In Iraq/Afghanistan: **John Bruyere**, Jane English's grandson; **Ken Evans**, Tamara Arlinghaus' father; Warren Wallingford's stepson, **Chris Echols**; **Travis Keever**, Pam and Frank Keever's son will ship out later this summer for Iraq; the Braswell's nephew, **Robert Phillips**, in Afghanistan.

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Kristy Forbes Vits and family** on the death of her father, former St. Philip pastor, **The Rev. William Ross Forbes**, on June 30 at John's Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore; to **Frank Keever and family** on the death of his sister, **Deborah Unruh**, on July 5th; and to **Lola Scott and family** on the death of her husband, **Herb Scott**, on July 7th. Former long time St. Philip member, **Sybil Dray**, wife of Lester Dray, died on July 10th in Phoenix, AZ.

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. We are finishing *Parables for Today*, by Alyce M. McKenzie. Get your copy of our next book *Jesus for Today* from Dan Flowers. Join us!

Thanks to these 13 members of St. Philip who served breakfast to the homeless on July 12 as part of the Lord of the Streets (LOTS) program at Trinity Episcopal Church.: Robin Angly, Linda Bevill, Skip Britton, Ralph Cherrillo, Sarah Cherrillo, Janet Davis, Susan and Robert Estill, Ruth Ewing, Bill Morris, Miles Smith, and Keith Weber. 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 is Sept. 20.

On Tuesday, August 4th, take your family and friends for a wonderful meal at Fish City Grill. On that date 15% of the proceeds will benefit CCSC (Christian Community Service Center). Fish City Grill is located at 5172 Buffalo Speedway (in the Kroger shopping center).

The Philip-Eye will be published on July 27, August 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 the Pastor's Study:

In the Palestine of Jesus' day, the common greeting which people shared was the Hebrew word, *Shalom*. It also served as a farewell. *Shalom*, most often translated into English as "peace," is actually a word with many different shades of meaning. Our single word, "peace," doesn't capture nearly all of it.

Besides what we usually think of when we think of peace -- absence of conflict, peace of mind, calmness of spirit, harmony -- the word also carried the meaning of "wholeness, completeness," the thought that we might realize the purpose for which God created us. For example, when the early nomadic Hebrews stopped in a place for very long, they would gather together stones to build a cairn-like altar at which to worship God. The stones had to be of a certain size and shape, rounded and smooth, and they needed to fit together well to make the altar. They were called "shalom stones."

To greet or say farewell to someone with *shalom* meant even more. It was a prayer that God would grace the person greeted with all that *shalom* means, all that goes into making up God's *shalom*. Not a bad way to say "hello" or "good-bye," don't you think?

By the way, our own usual farewell -- "Good-bye" -- was also originally a prayer. In its earliest form, it was "God be with you." Over many years, it was finally contracted into "good-bye," and many would say that it has lost its prayer-like quality!

How wonderful it would be if we could recapture the deep meaning behind "good-bye," and actually ask God's presence to grace someone, and to connect us while we were apart.

It certainly would have a lot more depth of meaning than "Have a nice day"!

Shalom, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

Shalom!

Presbyterian Night at the Astros

First pitch is at 6:05 pm on Saturday, August 22 versus the Arizona Diamondbacks. The proceeds of \$2 from each ticket sold will benefit Presbytery of New Covenant's IKE Recovery efforts. Take advantage of reduced seating prices and come out to the ballgame for a night of fellowship and fun.

To make reservations for groups of fewer than 20, log on to www.astros.com/presbyterian (password Presbyterian). For groups of 20 or more, contact Cody Arnold at 713 259-8315 or cannold@astros.com. (Note: tickets must be purchased at the website or from Cody Arnold to ensure the \$2 donation to the Presbyterian Church.)

Make a Difference for Children

For more than 100 years, people of faith have helped Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) fulfill its mission of providing a variety of Christ-centered services to children in need and their families. Now you can play a hands-on role in this journey by becoming a PCHAS Ambassador. Participants in the PCHAS Ambassador Program advocate for this life-changing ministry in their own churches by telling the PCHAS story in a variety of ways. The next Ambassador training is scheduled for August 28-29 at the PCHAS campus in Waxahachie. During Ambassador training, you will learn the intricacies of PCHAS, spend time with children in care and come away with a complete picture of this ministry.

From its humble beginnings as a single orphanage, PCHAS has evolved over the past century to serve more than 3,500 children and families in Texas and Louisiana each year. PCHAS offers group homes, foster homes, community outreach programs, support for single parents and advanced education/aftercare opportunities.

For information about the Ambassador Program, contact Josh Plumley at 713 526-2585 ext. 228 or josh.plumley@pchas.org. To learn more about the variety of Christ-centered services PCHAS offers to children in need and their families, visit www.pchas.org.

PrimeTimers Morning at the Museum

Once again we are faced with hot summer weather and are returning to the Museum of Natural Science to stay cool. The bus will leave at 9:30 on Thursday, August 6th. The museum offers three special exhibits...Terra Cotta Warriors (an exhibit that Time magazine named in their "top 5 must see exhibits"), the Nature of Diamonds, and Genghis Khan. Also available are the permanent exhibits and IMAX. Group rate prices will be available to each special exhibit.

Lunch will be at Qin Dynasty and then the bus will return to the church. Call 713-622-4807 or stop by the church office to sign-up for this trip!

CCSC's "Back to School"

This year's goal is to provide 6000 children with grade appropriate school supplies and uniforms.

The need is financial—\$45 will sponsor one child. Send your checks to St. Philip, clearly marked for "Back to School" or directly to CCSC at PO Box 27924, Houston 77227.

The need is for volunteers:

Sort & Set-Up—Sat. August 1, 7:45 am to 1:00 pm

Distribution— Sat. August 8, 7:30 am to Noon

Noon to 4:30 pm

(Note that distribution will take place for one day only. You can volunteer for the morning or afternoon shift.)

Hallelujah!

CORNER

The Hunger Offering received on July 5 benefiting SEARCH totaled \$1,108.84. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Isabella Renee Ford, daughter of **Omi** and **Robert Ford** was baptized on Sunday, July 12. The Rev. Fran Shelton, Isabella's grandmother officiated.

Welcome New Member...

Dr. Susan Lange joined St. Philip on June 28th. Many of you may know her as a regular visitor at St. Philip. Susan provides us with the following additional personal information about herself that will help you know her even better:

"I am delighted to join this community of St. Philip as a church member, having gratitude for the ways that I have come to know you. I have participated in worship. I have taught briefly in the Church and Society Class. Consistently, for seven years, I have spent most of my days witnessing the life of St. Philip Presbyterian Church from my office window at Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers where I am clinical director and also a clinical services provider. I frequently eat my lunch on benches around St. Philip's grounds and enjoy the flowers. I have made friends with a mockingbird and her fledgling."

"This information is a continuation of the many ways that I have been drawn toward the life of various Presbyterian churches and taken roles reflective of both my personal and professional 'callings'. I am an ordained Presbyterian elder and have served on sessions at two churches in Austin: Covenant Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church. I have worked closely with deacons, elders, and Stephen Ministers to support skill development in those important ministries. Concurrent with my two children's development, I have taught Sunday School and held babies in the nursery (to quiet my impatience to be a grandmother since neither of my adult children is married). Damon is an entrepreneur in the music business in Austin. Charlotte begins her third year in law school at Boston University. I have planned for and participated in many services of wholeness and healing as a worship leader, prayer minister, and as an elder serving communion. A Jesuit from Chicago has been a spiritual mentor for 29 years."

"My conversion experiences occurred when I was a youth in an old fashioned Methodist camp meeting near Center Point, AR, where members of my extended family have camped continuously for five generations. My family blessed me by reflecting God's love. I have known forever that I am precious in His sight. I look forward to deepening relationships with Him and with you."

Presbytery- Wide Day of Service

The Presbytery of New Covenant is holding a Presbytery-wide day of service on Saturday, August 1, 2009. All congregations in the Presbytery are urged to adopt service projects in their community on that day for congregational participation. St. Philip's project is to prepare lunches for Kids' Meals, one of the recipients of our mission benevolences.

On that day, Saturday, August 1, volunteers, young and old, from this congregation will meet at St. Philip to prepare lunches to be distributed to children who are in need of nutrition. All of the supplies for this project will be donated by Kids' Meals.

Kids' Meals serves lunches to pre-school children who do not qualify for school lunch and/or breakfast programs. The organization serves thousands of children five days a week. For some of these children this lunch may be the only meal they have all day. Other projects include the distribution of turkey baskets at Thanksgiving to some families, and hosting a Christmas party with Santa, presents, food and a variety of fun activities in celebration of the season. Perhaps you have contributed to the Christmas families sponsored by St. Philip in the past, which is a project St. Philip has undertaken under the leadership of Betty Anne Poe and Meredith Gartner in response to the needs seen through this organization. Kid' Meals not only receives money from our Mission budget, it is the recipient of one of our special hunger offerings which occur the first Sunday of each month.

If you and your kids would like to volunteer for this family effort to prepare lunches for Kids' Meals on Saturday, August 1, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., please contact Meredith Gartner, at 713 683-7945 or Mary Sinderson at 713 963-0273 to sign up.

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

Celebrating John Calvin's 500th Birthday

John Calvin would be 500 years old if he were alive today!

For this reason, in Jim Currie's words, "we are taking advantage of the occasion to learn more about the man, why he was important, how he has shaped our lives and our beliefs."

Join us for the next three Sundays.

July 19

"Calvin vs. Calvinism"

led by Dr. James S. Currie

July 26

"John Calvin: His Life and Legacy"

DVD, Part 1 - led by Rev. Kristy Vits

August 2

"John Calvin: His Life and Legacy"

DVD, Part 2 - led by Rev. Kristy Vits

Dated Material