

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church
Volume 53, Number 15

Houston, Texas
27 July 2009

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Pastor

Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits
Interim Associate Pastor

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Pastor Emeritus

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Parish Associate

Rev. Gregory Crisp Han
Parish Associate

Rev. Helen Bailey
Parish Associate

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Organist
Margaret Dement
Director of Youth Bells

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Volunteer Opportunity on 8/1 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 preschool 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. Kids' 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.

Summer Lecture Series

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*.

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.

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

Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: none known

Recuperating: **Charles Lucas**

At home: **Grayson Anderson, Bill Boren, Penny Vieau, Keith Weber**

In Iraq/Afghanistan: **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 will ship out this month, **Robert Phillips**, nephew of Martha and Jim Braswell.

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Martha Red** and **Stuart Red** and their families on the death of their mother, **Ellen Red**, on July 16. Ellen was a charter member of St. Philip.

A note from **Lola Scott**: *St. Philip friends: Thank you for the kindness shown to me regarding the death of my husband. Herb's death was unexpected and had he lived until this July 25th, he would have celebrated his 91st birthday. May God be with you as He has been with us during our long and happy life together. I also thank Him for leading us to joining St. Philip and getting to know its members and our being together as friends in church. May God bless each and everyone of you.*

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 Life of Jesus for Today*, by Ronald J. Allen. Get your copy from Dan Flowers and join us!

Spa No Stress Potlucks: Bring a dish to share and join your SPa friends here at the church for a potluck, games and fellowship for both adults and kiddos on the following upcoming summer Sunday nights: August 9, 16, and 30th. We start at 5:00 pm and go home by 7:00.

The Philip-Eye will be published on August 10 and 24, 2009. 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 Your DCM:

There is no shortage of gift items available for children. For years we had the option of going to a local store or searching through catalogues. Now we add on-line shopping to the other older ways of acquiring gifts. Gifts have gotten more sophisticated as technology continues to change. Children's gifts are now computers that sing, speak multiple languages, flash lights, and perform other eye and ear catching actions. We search for something that will educate, stimulate, and build self-esteem all at once.

Here is a suggestion for the perfect gift. It is not easy to find and it can be terribly expensive, but is guaranteed that it will last a lifetime and will be your child's favorite. The gift is your time.

A child's greatest need is the security of knowing that you care. There is no better way to convey your love than to spend time with a child. Hours invested in children will produce dividends now and in the future. You will be building a relationship, moment by moment, that will be the basis for a lifelong friendship between the two of you.

Time is a gift that does not come cheaply. It may cost you. You may have to forgo other activities. You will have to say "no" to other people. You may have to set aside personal goals or hobbies for a few years. Those other things will be around later, but the childhood years are soon gone forever. They are irretrievable.

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him." Psalm 127:3 NLT.

Judy

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.)

The location is Faith Lutheran Church
4600 Bellaire Blvd.

(just inside Loop 610 at Avenue B)

August Hunger Offering

Our hunger offering to be collected on August 2nd will benefit the Women's Home. This organization, one that we have supported for many years, is the only agency in Houston offering women long-term residential care, psychiatric services, psychotherapy, vocational, and spiritual development programs. Emphasis at the Women's Home is on rehabilitation. Women at the Home are required to assume responsibility for themselves. It is the goal of the Home that after each woman is given attention to her physical, emotional and spiritual needs, she is provided the guidance and support to recover the confidence and capability to re-enter society. Approximately 75% of the women who stay six months or longer leave with employment and a safe place to live.

St. Philip provides gifts of food and money as well as items for the Home's resale shop. For volunteer information, call Janet Davis, 713-464-2385. Please be generous with your gifts of non-perishable foods and cash on August 2.

Oh Jonah!

Join the St. Philip Kids when they discover that the tale of a whale is a whale of a tale.

You will meet Jonah, the Whale, sailors, angels and those Ninevites.

Our whale tour can be observed from the bough of the SS St Philip as we sail away in a new year of educational adventures.

All ages are welcome. Our Captain Bill Poe will see that we have a safe trip and our wonderful Cruise Director, Kristi Vits has some wonderful activities for you.

Rally Day
September 13, 2009
The Whale Deck
(Fellowship Hall)
On the SS St. Philip
9:30am

Hallelujah!

CORNER

Jane English has a new great grandson. **Jeffrey Paul Little, Jr.** was born July 15 in Raleigh, NC to Jeff and Meredith Bruyere Little.

Lectionary Readings

August 2, 2009

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

August 9, 2009

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

August 16, 2009

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 23, 2009

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 8: (1,6,10-11) 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

August 30, 2009

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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!

An Important Message About San Felipe Construction

Dear St. Philip Family,

The people at UpTown Houston are telling me that they are getting ready for the re-construction of our section of San Felipe in the very near future, and we will need to make some adjustments in how we get to the church. Here is how I am told it will work out.

Beginning on Friday, Aug. 7th, all eastbound lanes of San Felipe (that is the side closest to the church) will be closed. The church will have access from the westbound lanes only. Those of us who come to the church by driving east on San Felipe will need to turn right on Post Oak Blvd. and come around behind the Hilton Hotel and the condominiums to access the church's parking lot. This situation will continue until about Aug. 24th, with progress being made from Loop 610 west to Post Oak Blvd.

The other side of San Felipe (the westbound side) is going to have to wait while they city obtains the last bit of right-of-way from some of the owners on that side. I'll keep you posted on when that will happen.

We've known this inconvenience was coming for years, but now it is here and we will deal with it! See you in church!

In Christ, Bill

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

August	14 Barbara Eudey
2 Beth Atkinson	14 Kelly Gartner
3 Kim Hoesl	15 Janet Davis
4 Meg Scott-Johnson	15 Judy Seligman
4 Steve Adger	16 Ralph Arlinghaus
4 Shelby Kallus	21 Julie Evans
5 Walter King	22 Michael Alexander
6 Rick Stegall	22 Stuart Red
6 Richard Schissler	24 Max Wennenwesser
6 Keith Weber	24 Maggie Dement
8 Steve Nettles	24 Nancy Lomax
9 Mary Wassef	26 Elizabeth McPhail
10 Alice Pennington	26 Tony Peterson
10 David Fox	27 Jan Fox
11 Lee Larkin	27 Ralph Cherrillo
12 Jeanie Flowers	29 Rowan Murphy
12 Angela Crouse	30 Betsy Flowers
13 Warren Wallingford	31 Evelyn Murphy
	31 Joyce Randolph

Iona Comes to Mo-Ranch

John Bell Retreat
September 18 - 20, 2009

Spend a weekend exploring topics such as the music of the Iona Community, Sacred Space, and Theology and the Church's Song with a leading voice of the Iona Community.

This retreat will be enriching for anyone interested in the theory and/or practice of the church's music and liturgy. Bell is an internationally recognized authority on these subjects. Bell has collaborated with others on songs such as "*The Summons*," "*Take O Take Me As I Am*," and "*Halle, Halle, Halle*." His books include "*The Singing Thing: A Case for Congregational Song*" and "*Cloth for the Cradle: Worship Resources and Readings for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany*."

John L. Bell is a native of Kilmarnock, who lives in Glasgow where he studied Arts and Theology. After spells of voluntary work in London and Amsterdam, and engagements in student politics, he was ordained by the Church of Scotland. For ten years he worked in youth ministry with his colleague, Graham Maule, before transferring to concentrate on music and worship. He lectures, preaches and conducts seminars across the denominations in Europe, North America, Australia, and more recently, in Southern Africa. He is a hymn writer, author and occasional broadcaster on national radio and television, but retains a primary passion for congregational song.

His topics will include:

Why Do God's People Sing: will be an illustrated exploration of the rationale for the song of the church, looking at its psychological and liturgical benefits as well as the formative effect on our faith journey. Songs used here will be drawn from the Iona Community's storehouse of material which includes songs from all over the globe.

Theology and the Church's Song: Research in various parts of the world concurs that what people sing is what shapes their faith. The Church's song cannot therefore be looked on as a harmless pleasurable exercise. It is, rather, an exercise in spiritual and theological formation.

Music from the Iona Community: gives a broad sampling of the styles of music the Iona Community both writes and encourages; a capella folk melodies, chants, world songs, new psalm settings, songs on social justice, etc.

Sacred Space: Throughout scripture, God honors, enables and criticizes sacred spaces and their use. The buildings we occupy for worship often can tell us both something about God and something about ourselves.

You can download a brochure and registration form at moranch.com, or call 800-460-4401 ext. 239.

Youth News

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

Coming August 5 – “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince” on IMAX 3D! Time t.b.a.

Coming in August – We’re going to Schlitterbahn!
For more information on any of our special events,
contact Cindy Pope at 713-622-4807x309 or
Cindy@saintphilip.net.

Youth Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for our Vacation Bible School,
August 3 through August 7, from 10:00 to 12:30 p.m.
Youth assistants will help our VBS teachers in their
classrooms. Interested in signing up?
Call Cindy Pope for more information.

Youth Attend Montreat Conference

This week, a team of 3 youth and 2 chaperons will attend
the annual Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, NC.
Tyler Keever, David Lindsay and Lizzy Rosales, along
with chaperons Cindy Pope and Omar Rouchon, will
participate in a week of worship, activities and small
group discussions based on this summer’s theme,
“World on Fire.”

We will “share stories and illustrations
that connect faith and life, and
challenge one another to experience God,
find our voices, and be heard
in our local and global communities.”

Please keep our team in prayer as we join together with
youth from near and far to build relationships,
deepen our faith and worship God!

Youth Assist with IKE Relief

On Wednesday, July 8, as a part of the SPY C.I.A.
Overnighter, a small band of youth and adults
traveled to First Presbyterian Church of Galveston
to assist with IKE cleanup.

As with many buildings on the island,
their Sanctuary, Chapel and Fellowship Hall
suffered a great amount of damage.

Our group arrived to see a new roof in process of
installation, workers making repairs to Fellowship Hall
and the office staff operating
out of a trailer in the parking lot.

Located on the grounds is an alleyway,
running the length a city block, filled with an
accumulation of debris from IKE.

Glass, nails, Styrofoam and bolts mingled with other
debris, making the alley way unsightly and hazardous.
Our job was to remove all of the debris and garbage,
making the alleyway safe to use.

Armed with rakes, brooms, gloves and garbage bags,
our crew set to work. Not content to clean out the
alleyway, we also walked the perimeter of the grounds,
cleaning as we went. By noon, the grounds were neat
and clean, with several bags of debris
tied up and set out for pick up.

Many thanks to Rev. David Greene
and the staff of First Presbyterian Church of Galveston
for welcoming and hosting us.

And a special “shout out” to **Barclay Davis, Dillon
Junkin and George Pope** – the best work crew around!

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.

We will 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!

August 2

“John Calvin: His Life and Legacy”
DVD, Part 2 - led by Rev. Kristy Vits

Beginning August 9, this class will be studying
issues of social justice, peacemaking, and tolerance
in the context of the Holocaust.

The class will use as its outline a curriculum
developed by Mickey McGall Meyers,
a friend of St. Philip and author of several
curriculum resources that have been used
in a variety of PCUSA contexts.

This curriculum has been piloted by the
Presbytery of New Covenant, Central Presbyterian
Church, and several other denominations.

August 9

“Origins of the Holocaust. Racist Ideologies,
the Failure of Democracy in Germany,
and the Nature of the Nazi Dictatorship.”
led by Dr. Carl Caldwell, Chairman of the
Department of History, Rice University

August 16

“The Response of the Church to Intolerance:
Spotlight on Dietrich Bonhoeffer”
led by The Rev. Dr. Steve Spidell

August 23

“The Courage to Care,” (United Way DVD)
led by Mickey McGall Meyers, Curriculum author

August 30

“Where is My Family?” DVD
led by Mickey McGall Meyers

September 6

“The Story of Ruth Steinfeld” DVD
led by Mickey McGall Meyers