

# PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. Dr. William C. Poe  
Pastor

Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits  
Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III  
Pastor Emeritus

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Parish Associate

Rev. Gregory Crisp Han  
Parish Associate

Rev. Helen Bailey  
Parish Associate

Dr. Matthew Dirst  
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Margaret Dement  
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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](http://www.saintphilip.net)

## The CNC Invites Your Recommendations for Church Officers

### PrimeTimers Return to the Painted Churches

Several years ago the PrimeTimers visited the Painted Churches of the Schulenburg area. The interiors of the churches are very much like seeing some of the colorful churches in Europe. Numerous requests have been made to repeat the trip and on September 10th the PrimeTimers' bus will head to Schulenburg. Four churches will be visited with a guide to explain the beautiful artwork, stained glass windows, and architectural styles. Most of the churches are over 100 years old and still contain their original handpainted artwork and decorations.

Lunch will be at the Oakridge Smokehouse in Schulenburg. Total cost will be \$15 per person plus lunch. This will be a full day trip since we will leave early and return late afternoon. Based on the interest we have seen expressed the reservation list should fill quickly. So...go by or call the church office 713 622-4807 to reserve your place on this memorable trip!

### Lectionary Readings

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

The Congregational Nominating Committee of St. Philip invites the congregation to nominate persons for leadership as church officers for a three year term beginning in January 2010. You may nominate yourself.

Qualifications fall into these general areas:

**Church involvement:**  
attendance at public worship, participation in church activities, offices held, and services rendered.

**Christian living:** within the family, at work, in the community.

**Personal characteristics and skills:** willingness to learn, openness to new ideas, maturity of judgment, and special talents.

Particular responsibilities for each office:

**Elder:** All matters of leadership, spiritual life, education, mission, personnel, worship, government and discipline in the congregation, financial affairs, oversight of church plant and maintenance/improvement.

**Trustee:** To manage property and special funds for the church, acting after authority is granted by the Session or congregation. To lead the congregation to engage in a process for growth by making bequests of stock, property or other assets.

Include in your recommendation (s) the person's name, the office being recommended (Elder or Trustee), and the particular attributes that you believe would make this person a good officer. (A form is available for your use).

Your submittal may be placed in the offering plate or sent to Nominating Chairperson, Charles Lucas at 6213 Longmont, Houston, Texas 77057 or e-mail to [clucasjr@swbell.net](mailto:clucasjr@swbell.net).

Your response must be received no later than September 4, 2009.

## Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: none known

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

In Iraq: **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 later this summer.

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Ramona Heard, Monty Patterson and family** on the death of daughter and mother, Sandy Reading, on August 6th.

## Check These Announcements

**Food for the Soul:** Come and join us in creating a new St. Philip Community Garden. Organizers are putting together a group of backyard green thumbs and Master Gardeners to feed the soul through fellowship and hard work to produce food for the needy. If you would like to participate please contact Joyce Fox or Lori Murphy for further information.

**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.

**Final Call:** Have you had your photo taken for the new St. Philip Pictorial Directory? On August 23 and August 30, Omar Rouchon will take the final set of pictures for the new church photo directory. You can find Omar in the gathering area following both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services. Say "cheese".

**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 16 and 30. We start at 5:00 pm and go home by 7:00.

**"Oh Jonah" coming soon.** Reserve your seat for Rally Day, September 13!

**The Philip-Eye will be published** on August 24, September 8 (Tuesday) and 21. 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 Interim Associate Pastor:

There is a wonderful saying that "gratitude is the best attitude," and I must share with all of you that I am filled with gratitude. Thank you to each of you at St. Philip for welcoming me and for extending that welcome to my family. We are just thrilled to be a part of this vibrant, energetic, welcoming community of faith.

Unbelievably, the back-to-school season is upon us. Like many St. Philippians, one of my favorite pastimes is reading. I always loved the "unveiling" of the summer reading lists when I was in school, and I still love to keep up with recommended books wherever I can find them. And while it is too late in the season for a "summer" reading list, I thought I might share some suggestions for an "end-of-summer" reading list. Let's face it, reading is not a seasonal sport. So here goes. . .

1. An old favorite: If you have only seen the movies, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C.S. Lewis is worth reading or revisiting. My favorite book in the series is *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The story stayed with me for years. I love imagination and Lewis' ability to capture the essence of who we are as Christians, albeit in enchanting and fantastical ways.
2. Children's book with a wonderful message: *The Quiltmaker's Gift*. Story by Jeff Brumbeau and beautifully illustrated by Gail de Marcken. A king collects and demands "things" that will make him happy. He finds a quilt-maker who sews quilts that more beautiful than he can imagine, but she will not give him one of her creations. She makes her quilts for "those who are poor and homeless." The king sets out to accomplish all that the quilt-maker requires of him and ends up a changed man.
3. An amazing and tender children's book for adults and children alike: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, by Kate DiCamillo. If you have read and loved *Desperaux*, you will also resonate with the emotional journey of Edward. DiCamillo's ability to plumb the very essence of unconditional love has lessons for all of us.
4. Good book about faith: *Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith*, by Anne Lamott. Filled with the usual good advice and quirky insights found in an Anne Lamott work, this collection is witty and funny and spiritually connected to something great and wonderful. Indeed, Lamott has something to say about almost everything.
5. For the theologically daring: *Church Dogmatics, Volume IV.2*, by Karl Barth. Volume IV.2 is part of Barth's *Doctrine of Reconciliation*. It is powerful and passionate, and my favorite of the 13 volumes in the series. "Thus love is the indestructible element in the life-act of the Christian. It is, as we are forced to say, the promise fulfilled already in the present. Love alone abides." Magnificent!
6. Best collection of short stories: *The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald*, edited by Matthew J. Bruccoli. Fitzgerald's genius comes across in his short stories far more than in his longer works. Each story will

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make you think and ponder. The joy is that you can re-read these stories over and over again and still find little gems to take away. My favorite story in this collection is "The Offshore Pirate" or "Babylon Revisited." I highly recommend this collection.

7. Most provocative newer book about life and death: Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*. Though Robinson is a "formidable scholar" according to reviewers, she is also a writer whose faith journey has indelibly marked her as a "Christian" writer. Recent lecturer Dr. Cindy Rigby mentioned Robinson's talents in writing and theology. For Robinson, both in her writing life and in her faith journey, the world unfolds as a series of revelations, metaphors. This story is an epistolary novel of letters from a minister to his son. Try it.

Or simply browse in the J. Walter Dickson Library and let your own tastes dictate what you choose. Whatever you read, you will be the recipient of a gift.

**Kristy**

## Preparing Seafarer's Boxes

We will be packing Seafarer Boxes again this year and October looks like the magical month to pack them.

We need the following items in September: 75 toothbrushes, 75 combs, 75 decks of cards, 300 disposable razors.

Other needed items are: shoe polishers, wash cloths, pencils, pens, small gifts, packs of kleenex, paper, cards, paper clips, rubber bands, needle and thread, chap stick, cotton ball, band aids, coffee cups, new or gently used T-shirts, knitted watch caps, new work socks, plastic or work gloves, plastic zip lock containers, large bars of soap, toothbrushes, and hand knitted seafarer caps. We also accept hotel toiletry collectables. Please remember that these items go into a shoe box so there is no need to "supersize".

Any questions call Sue Shirley-Howard or Janet Davis.

## Youth Attend Montreat Conference

Last week, a team of three youth and two chaperones attended the annual Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, NC. **Tyler Kever**, **David Lindsay** and **Lizzy Rosales**, along with chaperones **Cindy Pope** and **Omar Rouchon**, participated in a week of worship, activities and small group discussions based on this summer's theme, "World on Fire".

Together with youth from near and far, we shared stories and illustrations that connect faith and life, and challenged one another to experience God, find our voices and be heard in our local and global communities. Many thanks to our church family for your support of our youth.

# Hallelujah!

CORNER

Welcome to new members **Laureen** and **Lad Perenyi** who joined St. Philip on July 26 by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church, Houston.

The Hunger Offering received August 2 benefiting The Women's Home totaled \$1,029.18. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## An Invitation to All

The Monday evening study group meets semi-monthly for refreshments, a devotional, and discussion with St. Philip friends, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus). At our first fall meeting we will begin Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan's book *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon*.

The group is open to anyone who wants to be part of the conversation, and meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, with our next meeting Monday, September 14. For more information, contact Kate Burkart, 713 831-3152, or [kburkart@aglife.com](mailto:kburkart@aglife.com).

## Attention

### St. Philip Leaders and Teachers

FOCUS 2009 will be at Grace Presbyterian Church on October 3, 2009. The Education Commission encourages attendance for this workshop. The keynote speaker will be Dan Kimbal, one of the pastors at Vintage Faith Church in Santa Cruz, CA. He is the author of *They Like Jesus, But Not the Church* and *The Emerging Church*. Dan explains that in order to change the world for Christ, you must get out of the complacency bubble (four walls of the church), go into the community, and listen to what people are saying about Jesus.

This creative leadership event gives you a choice of more than 20 workshops including Multiracial Congregations, Happy 500<sup>th</sup> Birthday to John Calvin, Singing into our Future, Children's Ministry through Literature and Movies, Ministry Beyond the Comfort Zone, Growing in Faith in Times of Transition, Change Happens for the Over-Forty Crowd and much, much more.

Register before September 15<sup>th</sup> for \$30.00 (includes lunch). You can register at [www.123signup.com/register?id=jqpdt](http://www.123signup.com/register?id=jqpdt) or contact Carrie Walker [cwalker@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:cwalker@pbyofnewcovenant.org).

Recently Dr. Cynthia Rigby suggested that we take the plunge to live out God's wonderful plan for us. This is a perfect way to take the leap. See you there.

## Now Available in the Church Library

A collection of information has been assembled in the church library, following Church & Society's recent series of lectures on **Perspectives on Immigration**. The material is made available as we continue to consider proposed laws and policies addressing this vital issue in our country.

The collected material includes two DVD's: the PBS documentary "Forgotten Ellis Island" and "Texans for Sensible Immigration Reform" narrated by the late Ron Stone. Print material includes the Neighborhood Centers' booklet "Hope for Reform" which could have been a textbook for the series as it contains much of what the knowledgeable speakers presented to the class. There are also articles from the PCUSA General Assembly, a report to the Texas legislature, recent clips from newspapers and magazines addressing the issue. Copies are still available of the Spring Journal of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary containing articles on immigration written by faculty members.

Check it out!

### Rally Day

September 13, 2009

9:30 am

### Sail Away, Sail Away, Sail Away On the S.S. St. Philip

Our educational ports of call are calling out to you for a season of spectacular learning and fun. From the toddler to the older adult, there is something for everyone.

Join us in the fellowship hall for continental breakfast, excursion tables (Educational Opportunities) and a talented group of St. Philip Kids will take you on a Whale Watch (Oh, Jonah!). Cruise attire is encouraged.

If your educational group or commission would like a table to properly advertise the coming year, please contact Mike Alexander immediately...281-635-4499 or email your request to almike@swbell.net. Our wonderful staff and crew will prepare a place for you.

## 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

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

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

Dated Material