

# PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER of Saint Philip Presbyterian Church  
Volume 53, Number 18

Houston, Texas  
8 September 2009

## Jazz Communion Service September 13 at 8:30 and 11:00 am

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  
Interim 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  
philip-eye@saintphilip.net

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

**BBQ! BBQ! BBQ!  
3RD ANNUAL BBQ**

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 12TH  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
5:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M.**

**BBQ, MUSIC, DANCING, FUN  
FOR ST. PHILIPPIANS & FRIENDS**

**COME ONE, COME ALL**

**CHEFS' JIM, MAX & JEROMY WILL  
FIRE UP THE SMOKERS FOR THE  
BEST BBQ IN TOWN!**

**Bring a big side dish  
(Last Name A-M)  
or dessert (Last Name N-Z)  
and a donation for the pit.  
Drinks provided.**

Music has always been an integral part of the worship of God's people, expressing joy and praise, hope and expectation, sadness and grief, wonder and question. Our music for this year's Jazz Communion Service will be no different. The service will be both solemn and joyful. The music brings to a sacred religious experience the deep feelings and emotions that are so well expressed in jazz or improvisational music.

The service, both at 8:30 and 11:00 am will feature *JAZZ SUNDAY*, the group that has offered their music for the past several years led by Richard Birk and singer Ellen Rogers. Please join us on the 13<sup>th</sup> as we welcome back *JAZZ SUNDAY* to St. Philip! And invite your friends and neighbors!

### Rally Day

September 13, 2009  
9:30 am

**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 and excursion tables (Educational Opportunities). Join the talented St. Philip Kids when they discover that the tale of a whale is a whale of a tale (Oh Jonah). 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 Cruise Director, Kristi Vits, has some wonderful activities for you. Cruise attire is suggested!

### Lectionary Readings

September 13, 2009  
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19  
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 20, 2009  
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1  
James 3:13—4:3. 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 27, 2009  
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124  
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

## Congregational Concerns:

Hospitalized: **Carl Wischmeyer** at Methodist

Recuperating: **Bill Camfield, Sue Howard**

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

In Iraq/Afgahanistan: **Ken Evans**, father of Tamara Arlinghaus; **John Bruyere**, Jane English's grandson; Warren Wallingford's stepson, **Chris Echols; Travis Kever**, Pam and Frank Kever's son; **Robert Phillips**, Martha & Jim Braswell's nephew.

The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Jeanette Wennenwaser and family** on the death of her aunt, **Mary Christianson**, Aug. 15.

A note from **Bill Slick**: *Dear Friends at St. Philip, I will never be able to adequately express just how much I appreciated the prayers and expressions of support and love which came to me from our St. Philip Family during and since my treatments at MDA. It has been very humbling to find out that so many people cared. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and may God bless you all.*

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

**The Thursday morning Bible Study will resume on September 17<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 in the Conference Room. Bill Poe will be leading the group in a study of The Gospel according to Luke.

**We will be preparing Seafarer Boxes in October** and the following items are needed: 75 toothbrushes, 75 combs, 75 decks of cards, 300 disposable razors, 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, 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". Questions? Call Sue Shirley-Howard or Janet Davis.

**The Philip-Eye will be published** on September 21, October 5 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 or leave in the PE box in the mail room.

## From Your DCM:

This summer the children of St. Philip have been studying the story of Jonah. This wonderful story is to be the theme for the musical that the children will present on Rally Day at 9:40 a.m. Everyone knows about Jonah. People who have never read the Bible know enough about Jonah to laugh at a joke about him and the "whale." Jonah has entered our folklore.

If you have not read the whole story of Jonah in a while I encourage you to do so. I remember several years ago in a Vacation Bible School class we studied Jonah. The older elementary students were amazed that there was more to the story of Jonah saying "no" to God, being swallowed by a whale, and eventually going to Nineveh.

Jonah's story is often paralleled in our lives. We feel that God is calling us to do something that we do not want to do. We think up many excuses to have our own way rather than God's way. We are miserable until we finally "get out of the whale" and do what we are being called to do. This is one of my favorite Bible stories. I remember a time in my life when I felt that God was calling me away from public school education to work in the church. I could think of many reasons that I could not do this. I was very unhappy with my job until I finally listened to God's call. I have been working in Christian Education for twelve years and in three churches. People often ask me what kinds of things I do in my job. It is rather hard to explain, but it has many different aspects of children's religious education. I would be unable to do my job if there were not a tremendous group of volunteers that feel called to work with children. I sincerely appreciate their dedication to the children of St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

**Judy**

## Kids Meals Needs You

For many years now, St. Philip has been involved with Houston Kid's Meals. The Presbyterian Women, under the oversight of Mission Commission, have had primary responsibility for delivering these meals one morning a month. The meals are delivered to the younger siblings of children who receive free breakfasts and lunches through H.I.S.D.

We would like to offer the opportunity to all members of St. Philip to help in making deliveries on weekdays or by joining a crew on Saturday mornings to put the lunches together. There will be information and a sign-up sheet on Rally Day Sunday in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions, please call Betty Anne Poe at 713-974-6610.

## Third Annual Concert for Peace

"This peace is offered wherever there is brokenness..." Commitment to Peacemaking 2003, St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

Final preparations are underway for the Third Annual Concert for Peace which will be held in the Church Sanctuary on Saturday October 3, 2009. The concert will start at 7:30 pm and will feature the music of Schubert, Brahms, Britten, Mozart and Strauss, interspersed with poetry and periods of meditative silence. The musical selections will feature **Stacey Weber**, Soprano; **Faith Sherman**, Mezzo-soprano; **Michael Kelly**, Tenor; **David Grogan**, Baritone and **Keith Weber**, Pianist. The poetry selections will feature original and translated works being read by **Fady Joudah**.

The intention of the Concert is to highlight our individual and collective focus and intention on the action of peacemaking and to seek out the peacemakers from our community in an evening of unity. We invite you to be inspired, to find the peacemaker inside of you to search for your way of harnessing your talents and gifts for the enhancement of our world.

## PrimeTimers to Visit the New San Jacinto Monument

Well... actually it is not new, but newly refurbished and enlarged. Witness revolution in the Jesse Jones Theatre presentation of "Texas Forever". The museum has been enlarged also and features new exhibits such as "Developing Houston". The observation deck offers great views and the Battleship Texas is still afloat for touring. The battleground tour will be on the bus with a guide to explain the marked areas of the battle.

Lunch will be at the Monument Inn Restaurant. The bus will leave Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup> for this fun filled day. How long has it been since you went to San Jacinto? Well, that's too long!

## New Banner to be Dedicated on Peacemaking Sunday.

On Peacemaking Sunday, October 4, a new addition to St. Philip's collection of artistic banners will be dedicated. This new banner has been designed and created by Hope Wilmarth in recognition of the church's commitment to the concepts of peacemaking and social justice. The guest preacher for this occasion will be the Rev. Emily Wilmarth, child of this church, and daughter of Hope and Lance Wilmarth. Emily is a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary presently serving in a pastoral capacity at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

Do mark your calendars for this special occasion and plan to be with us at either the 8:30 or 11:00 services.

## Hallelujah!

CORNER

**Jeanette** and **Max Wennenwesser** are new grandparents! Their daughter and son-in-law, **Amy** and **Joel Irick**, have just returned from China with their new daughter, **Madeline**. Congratulations!

Welcome to these new members: **Katina Papatopoulos** and **Logan Vits** who joined September 6th. Katina is transferring her membership from First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Logan is joining on reaffirmation of faith.

The Hunger Offering received September 6th benefiting Good Neighbor Healthcare Center totaled \$907.00. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## News from the Mission Commission

At the August meeting, the Session confirmed the appointment of the Rev. Dr. George F. Pope as Mission Coordinator – a new function at St. Philip. The Mission Coordinator will monitor mission involvement, serving as a liaison to the agencies and entities which are recipients of the benevolence of the church, coordinate volunteer efforts, promote active participation by members in our mission ministries, oversee the benevolence budget, procedures and allocations, and provide creative guidance to the Mission Commission in seeking to accomplish the mission and goals of St. Philip.

Most of you know George as the friendly and efficient head of ushering, but few of you know of his education and background which will so enhance this congregation's outreach to the community and world through mission. George has over 25 years experience as a pastor in Michigan, Illinois and California. In addition he has served since arriving in Harris County as the Executive Director of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, and the Harris County Drug Court Foundation, both of which receive financial donations and volunteers from this church.

George completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at Alma College, his Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Doctorate of Ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary. St. Philip is so blessed to have such an eminently qualified individual step into this role. The Mission Commission is convinced the Holy Spirit was truly at work in our mission program to have sent George to us. Since the leadership of the Commission changes with every new Session, the role of the Mission Coordinator will ensure a smooth transition and continuation of projects and programs.

Come meet and greet George in his new role at the Mission display on Rally Day.

**A Call for Social Justice:  
A Four-Part Series**  
Sundays, October 4, 11, 18, and 25,  
at 9:30 a.m., in Room 201

The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee is sponsoring an October video discussion on Morgan Spurlock's television program "30 Days." Walking in someone else's shoes is an excellent way to understand others, and "30 Days" makes that a reality. (But don't worry, it's not "that kind" of reality show!) We will watch 45-minute videos in class, then engage in discussion.

October 4

"Minimum Wage" led by Kate Burkart  
Spurlock and his fiancée work at multiple  
minimum wage jobs for 30 days  
(earning \$5.15 per hour at that time).

October 11

"Life on an Indian Reservation"  
led by Mary Sinderson

Morgan Spurlock will leave America as he knows it, without ever actually leaving US soil, to live with a people who many see as refugees in their own country, when he heads west to spend 30 days with the Native American Indians on the Navajo Nation.

October 18

"Working in a Coal Mine" led by Bill Morris  
Morgan Spurlock returns to his home state,  
West Virginia, to experience one of the country's  
most dangerous occupations, coal mining.

October 25

"Same-Sex Parenting" led by Warren Wallingford  
A wife and mother who is a strong proponent  
of the traditional family unit will have her beliefs  
challenged when she agrees to spend 30 days with  
the new face of alternative parenting - that of a  
same-sex couple with adopted and foster children.

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

**Classes for Children**  
Nursery through two year olds  
Room 7-8.

**Godly Play class for ages 3-4**  
Room 6.

**Elementary Rotation classes K-5<sup>th</sup> grades**  
Room 105.

**Youth Classes**  
**Junior High and Senior High**  
Café SPY – open Sept. 20  
Rooms 205/206 in the Education Building

**Adult Classes**  
**September 13 – Rally Day**

**The SPa (St. Philip Adults)**  
Room 200 in the Education Building

**Bible Study**  
Room 204 in the Education Building  
Led by Dr. Nancy Cook and Al Wadrop

**Church and Society**  
Room 201 in the Education Building  
**September 20**  
What is going on with College Students today?  
Guinn B. Eagleson, Executive Director  
of United Campus Ministry of Greater Houston,  
will lead this class

**September 27**  
The Mission Commission presents a class on the  
outreach programs of St. Philip with emphasis on a  
new program approved by the Session to be  
launched on November 7. On that date we will  
begin work as a satellite of Kids Against Hunger,  
packing 30,000 specially formulated meals to be  
distributed to starving children.  
The Rev. Dr. George Pope and Sandra Cooper will  
lead the class.

**October 4 – 25**  
A Call for Social Justice  
A Four Part Series  
(see column to the left)

Dated Material