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October 7, 2025 Volume 69, Issue 11

PHILIP-EYE



Invitation to attend the Alternative Gift Market and Silent Auction

Here ye, here ye, get your Christmas shopping done early! The entire St. Philip congregation, visitors to the church, and your friends and family are invited to the 2025 Alternative Gift Market. The market will take place on Sunday, **November 16** in the Fellowship Hall between 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and after worship until 1:30 p.m. We will serve coffee and breakfast tacos in the morning if you shop before church in the Fellowship Hall. Donations gratefully accepted.

The Alternative Gift Market is an event where St. Philip hosts our mission partners in one place as well as the St. Philip Stitchers, Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate, and other groups. Some groups have items for sale that you can purchase as Christmas gifts or purchase for yourself. Other groups don't have items for sale, but you can give a charitable, tax-deductible donation and receive a donation card that you can give to a family member or friend in their honor. The St. Philip community has the opportunity to speak directly with the mission partner representatives about what their organization is doing in the community or abroad, and how the St. Philip congregation can support them in the future. Credit cards, cash, checks, Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, and Venmo will be accepted.

Alternative Gift Market Silent Auction Donations

To raise money for our mission partners, the Mission Committee is hosting the annual Silent Auction at the Alternative Gift Market. The Committee is in need of donations to raise funds. In year's past, church members, church visitors, and friends and family, have donated baked goods, sports team memorabilia, opera, ballet, or theatre tickets, holiday wreaths, themed gift baskets, quilts, art, vacation home getaway, and more. If you would like to donate an auction item or experience, please contact Sharon Webb at sharonwebb@agmail.com. You can also drop off the auction item at the church office with Lorrie Castle. Thank you for considering donating an item or experience to the Silent Auction. Donations are due by Tuesday, **November 11**.



MEOW!! RUFF!! MEOW!! RUFF!!

(ACCORDING TO ONE'S LAST NAME)

We can help our seniors keep their beloved companions. A pet food drive-thru has been scheduled for Saturday, **October 18** from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Just drive on up to the front of the church and drop off kibble or canned food. And invite your neighbors and friends! Seniors who qualify for the Meals on Wheels program also qualify for the Animeals on Wheels initiative. This helps our seniors keep their beloved furry companions and not give up their own food to feed their babies. We will also put a box out in the Gathering Area until that time if you'd like to drop off cat or dog food prior to our drive. And it will mean so much to the seniors who treasure their fur babies. For more info on the Animeals program click this link. IM Houston - Animeals - IM Houston

Thank you so, so much! The Mission Committee



welcome@saintphilip.net

THANK YOU! FROM LIBERTY HIGH!

Ms. Reyes "want(s) to take this opportunity to thank St. Philip Presbyterian Church for all the donations provided for our students and their families. We greatly appreciate your support and generosity towards our school."

You can see from their stock room that empty shelves will now be full of your generous donations. As a school for immigrants, many are working full time while learning English, working to-



wards a high school diploma and trying to help their families thrive. A student may say 'I am hungry.' This enables Ms. Reyes to provide the student with a snack. It enables her to provide the students in need with some things as basic as toothpaste or soap or feminine napkins. The smallest gifts can sometimes mean the most. Thank you so much.



And then we have the brilliant Keaton King. She called to ask if perhaps Liberty High could use a perfectly working 50" Panasonic TV. The answer was yes! Thank you so much to Jenny and Wesley Vestal for donating the TV of their beloved Carolyn. It has gone to a very good home. Thank you.



HOMELESSNESS IN HOUSTON 2025

The 2025 homeless count showed 1,282 people living unsheltered, a 15.8% increase since 2024. There was a decrease of 6% from the 2024 of people living in shelter, the count now being 2,043. This is due in part to reduced shelter capacity in 2024, underscoring a critical lesson, without sufficient capacity and permanent housing flow, street homelessness grows. For more information check the website https://www.cfthhouston.org/houston-facts-info.

WORLD HOMELESSNESS IS IN OCTOBER

Storytelling brings facts to life and walks the listener through the mind of the storyteller's experience. Join us for an evening dedicated to sharing and hearing the untold stories of those impacted by homelessness in our community.

Thursday, October 9, 6:30 onwards

Ecclesia Downtown, 1100 Elder St, Houston, TX 77007,

This event is free; you are encouraged to register at https://www.searchhomeless.org/events/storytelling/. This is an impactful Storytelling event in honor of World Homeless Day. Speakers featured are SEARCH team members, clients, sponsors, and other community members.

SEWING BEE

In collaboration with the American Sewing Guild, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and Council of Congregations we will make and provide simple fleece mittens and hats for SEARCH and EAC (Emergency Aid Coalition) clients.

Saturday, October 11, choose from two shifts 10:00 a.m. – Noon or 1:00 pm – 3:00 p.m. St. Paul's United Methodist Church In Fondren Hall, 5501 Main St, Houston, TX 77004

How to participate: bring your own machine, set it up in Fondren Hall, and lay people will guide you, and provide needed materials to sew. If you don't sew, there are essential support roles, cutting fleece, organizing in the space, preparing materials. Beginners are welcome, instruction and support will be provided by the American Sewing Guild.

Needed: Donations of fleece and yarn

To registration for either event or more information: contact Community Partnerships Manager for SEARCH—Phoenix Johnson, pjohnson@searchhomeless.org



SEARCH Scattered House Housing Luncheon

St. Philip will gather at the SEARCH office to provide the Friday meal for the clients of SEARCH. One of our mission partners for years SEARCH provides critical services for rehousing the homeless. The event will be at the current SEARCH building, 2015 Congress. Residents of scattered housing sites across the city and come together once a month to build connections with each other and their SEARCH case workers. St. Philip will provide a meal thanks to Chuck Johnson and his gracious support. We can always use a few more volunteers to help serve and mingle with clients. We will provide drinks, lunch supplies. We will be playing bingo and providing gift bags for all. Call Mary McGuire, 713-858-0552 and leave a message or email at mstxmac@yahoo.com to add your name and to get parking or carpooling instructions.

Christmas Shoeboxes



Every year, the Houston International Seafarers Center delivers between 8,000 and 11,000 shoeboxes filled with essential items, treats, and small gifts to the hardworking seafarers visiting the Port of Houston. Many of these men and women spend months at sea, far from home and family—especially during the holiday season.

These special shoeboxes are hand-delivered directly to ships by our Chaplains, ship visitors, and staff—sharing not just gifts, but kindness, gratitude, and holiday spirit.

2025 SEASON

The Mission Committee invites you to participate again this year in the 2025 International Seafarer's Christmas Shoebox program. St. Philip and Central Presbyterian churches have a long history of being a part of this ministry. We are so thankful for the generous support of everyone in years past. Because of your continued support, St. Philip has been able to contribute 125 packed boxes each year to deserving seafarers.

Bins for collected personal care and recreational items (NO SHOEBOXES, PLEASE) will be in the Gathering Area weekly. Requested items to fill the boxes are listed below. Look for details to come about the date for wrapping of the boxes.

PLEASE HELP THE SEAFARERS WITH THESE ITEMS

Personal Care Items

Band Aids (fabric) Body Wash (liquid)

Dental Floss

Deodorant

Gold Bond Crème

Gold Bond Powder

Hair Combs

Hand Wipes

Lip Balm

Lotion

Nail Clippers

Q Tips

Shampoo/Conditioner

Shaving Cream

Tissues

Individually Wrapped Single

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Recreational Items

New Baseball Caps

Chewing Gum/Hard Candy

Earbuds/Headphones

Flashlights W/Batteries

Handkerchiefs

Key Chains

Magnets

Mechanical Pencils / Pens

Needle & Thread

Non-Perishable Snacks

Playing Cards

Pocket-sized Notebooks

Pocket Calendars

Socks

Texas Souvenirs

New T-Shirts

Word Searches/ Sudokus

2024 STATS











FOR HELPING US CONTINUE OUR MISSION SERVING SEAFARERS



We no longer collect recycled shoeboxes for this project.

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS AN ELEC-TION NEXT MONTH?

On November 4th there are important elections to be aware of and to vote on. At a very local level, there are several school board elections on the ballots. There are also a large number of Texas Constitutional Amendments to learn about and vote on as well. Following are several resources and references for you so that when you step up to the election booth, you will be aware and informed about what you are voting on. For example, you can find your particular ballot by your address. Important dates are listed. And the information about 5 Calls offers a way to communicate your thoughts an concerns with your current elected officials.

Use this QR Code to - Check your voter registration with Texas Impact, make your plan to vote, find out when elections are, see what's on yourballot, and sign up for reminders to make it to the polls.



5 Calls

5 Calls is the easiest and most effective way for US constituents to make a political impact, and calling your congressperson is the most effective way to influence policy (https://5calls.org/why-calling-works/). What's important to you? 5 Calls provides you with a script with detailed talking points and tells you who to call based on your location.

Go to https://5calls.org/

GET OUT THE VOTE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION

Your Ballot by address: Vote411

https://www.vote411.org/ballot

Texas Constitutional Amendments

from Texas Secretary of State https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/november-2025-ballot-language-17.pdf

Important Dates

- ◆ First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance: Monday, October 20
 - ◆ *Note*: The 17th day before Election Day falls on a Saturday, so the first day moves to the next business day.
- ◆ Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked): Friday, October 24
- ◆ Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance: Friday, October 31

Last Day to Receive Ballot by Mail:

- ◆ If carrier envelope is not postmarked: Tuesday, November 4, (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ If carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day: Wednesday, November 5 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m.
 - ◆ *Note*: Different deadlines may apply for overseas or military voters

https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/election-dates



NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—Room 103—Godly Play utilizes storytelling of Scripture and spiritual experience as we watch, listen, wonder, and respond together. We value the process, we are open to discovery with the child, and one of our goals is to build community as we work alongside one another week by week.

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-5—Room 205—This Fall the children will explore a unit called "Across Borders" from the FollowMe discipleship practices curriculum from the PCUSA.

YOUTH—Grades 6-12 meet in the Dining Room, watch the calendar for announcements about Kids Against Hunger packing sessions. Join us on **October 12** at 9:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM - we will study Ecclesiastes, the final book in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us as we seek to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to all of God's people from Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

ENNEAGRAM—Room 202—Rev. Holly Heuer is teaching an introductory course on the Enneagram, a tool for self-awareness and spiritual growth. The Enneagram is a helpful way to understand ourselves and others, leading to deeper appreciation of our own and others' gifts. There will be audio recordings for those who miss a class. For more information and a syllabus, please contact Holly: hollyheuer@ecentral.com

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201—9:30 a.m.—October 12 - Columbus – Science and Religion by Bruce Yaeger. October 19 - Linyan Zheng, Rice Religion PhD student, will present: Religion & Writing Therapy: H.D.'s Resurrection Myth as a Case Study. October 26 - Kyle Sherling, Rice Religion PhD student, will present: Abraham: Father, Prophet, Philosopher, and Imperial Founder.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—We will have Children's Chapel the second and fourth Sundays after *Conversation with Children*. In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship, while praying, singing, and hearing God's word at an

age-appropriate level. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets for an hour once a month on Zoom to read and discuss social justice issues of concern in today's world. Our current topic is Christian Nationalism, one definition of which is "that America is God's chosen nation and should be defended and governed as such." Attitudes already influencing our legislators include opposition to gay rights, opposition to gun safety efforts, promotion of Christian religion in schools and libraries, book bans, etc.

Our selected next study book is Brian Kaylor's *Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism.* This study began on Monday, **October 6**, 7-8 p.m. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson:

sjj10223@gmail.com.

LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome to join us as we look at the lectionary passages for the coming Sunday! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. We will discuss "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood at the next meeting on **October 9** at 7:00 p.m. Please watch your email for details about location. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOW-SHIP— Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 a.m. We are studying "The Tears of Things" by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com

MAHJONG ANYONE?—St. Philippians are invited to play Mahjong on Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at St. Philip in the Choir Lobby in Administration Bldg. We are interested in substitutes with the possibility of forming more sets if there is enough interest. If you're interested in playing Mahjong sometimes or often or in learning how to play, text Judith Hiott at 832-277-8676.

The Generous Path: Cultivating generosity through stewardship God's gift of generosity: Gratitude beyond stewardship

A Season of Questions and Gratitude

Stewardship season is drawing near! We will kick off our celebration together at our fall picnic **October 19**. Then we will have a final column in the November Philip-Eye to review some ideas from a recent book by Presbyterian pastor, lecturer, and worship leader the Rev. Karl Travis. Your 2025 Stewardship Committee has adopted the title of this book, expressed above, to help us frame how we think about these things in our walk with God, no matter what time of year or "season" we might be in.



Gratitude Beyond Stewardship

This year's stewardship season is built around three simple but profound questions:

- 1. How is God generous with you?
- 2. How might you be more generous with others?
- 3. How will our congregation be generous in the coming year?

Since August, your Session has been reflecting on these questions at each monthly meeting and will conclude with the third this month. On September 28, 18 members of the Church and Society class also engaged in small group conversations about generosity. Would your small group like to join the discussion, in person or by Zoom? Materials from *God's Gift of Generosity: Gratitude Beyond Stewardship* are available; just email stewardship@saintphilip.net.

Researchers Hilary Davidson and Christian Smith, in their study of generosity in the United States, emphasize the importance of *practices* rather than isolated acts. "Practices," they write, "are repeated behaviors that involve recurrent intention and attention." How have you made generosity a practice in your life, or how might you begin?

Your Stewardship Committee is grateful to walk alongside you in this season. Together we celebrate God's generosity, St. Philip's faithful witness, and the call to imagine how we can be even more generous in the year ahead. Please reach out to the Committee with your questions, concerns, or ideas.

GET READY FOR TRICK-OR-TREATERS



Kids love to get chocolate for Halloween, and now's a great time to stock up on organic and fairly traded chocolate Minis for the spooky season. Equal Exchange, our partner in the Presbyterian Coffee Project, participates in a fair-trade program to help end the problems of child labor, family poverty, and environmental destruction that are often endemic in the African cocoa industry, where most commercial chocolate also begins its journey to your supermarket shelves.



You can buy fair-trade chocolate Mini bars to give on Halloween at our pop-up sale on Sunday, **October 26**, in the Gathering Area, before worship. Kid-sized and loved by all, our milk and dark chocolate Minis will be bagged for your convenience! Limited stock of your other favorite Equal Exchange products will also be available. Help scare off child labor this Halloween!



REFORMATION SUNDAY October 26

Join us on the lawn at 9:00 a.m. for worship with the pipes and drums of the Houston Highlanders as we observe Reformation Sunday.





November Birthdays

Na	ame	Date
Omi	Ford	1
Judith	Crane	2
Rachel	Kimbro	2
Denise	Sanchez	3
Sharon	Webb	4
Robert	Ford	5
Terri	Clemmons	6
Cathy	Patterson	6
Scott	Baker	7
Sondra	Sullivan	8
Nancy	Young	8
Elizabeth	Arp	9
Molly	Boren-Whitney	9
Mary Jane	McDaniel	9
Judy	Nunn	9
Esmeralda	Stevenson	9
Julie	Wangler	9
John	Bobbitt	10
Elizabeth	Hardesty	10
Eric	Brown	11
Carlton	Currie	12
Keatan	King	12
Mary	Herlitz	14
Robert	Boone	15
Fiona	Murphy	15
Nadene	Crain	16
Michael	Lawson	16
Elsie	Dees	17
Kelly	Fox	18
Jo	Helland	18
Alexa	Stevenson	18
Bebe	Burns	19
Ruth	Waldrop	19
Juliana	Vahora	20
Jennifer	Wilson	20
Robert	Estill	21
Paul	Arlinghaus	22
Evan	Fulcher	23
Karen	Morris	24
Mary	McGuire	25
Curt	Webb	26
Brice	Wilborn	26
Candice	Harris	27
James	Leonard	27
Charlotte	Kibler	28
Joyce Ann	Fugit	29



DAY OF WRATH: MUSIC AND DRAMA IN MOZART'S DIES IRAE

Very few pieces of music in history elicit such an emotional reaction as Mozart's *Requiem*, a work steeped in drama and mystery. Not only is it a setting of the Catholic liturgical mass for the dead, but it was also left incomplete by Mozart, who died under mysterious circumstances while composing it.

The Requiem is filled with dramatic moments—whether it's the slow, brooding introduction, the choir's piercing cries of "REX" ("King"), or the famous weeping strains of the Lacrimosa, which has been used for decades to under-



score emotional scenes in films, TV shows, and even commercials, both sincerely and ironically. My favorite dramatic moment is somewhat mainstream but incredible nonetheless: the fiery *Dies Irae*, or "Day of Wrath." This vivid text opens the Latin sequence describing the Last Judgment, complete with trumpets and drums that summon souls before God's throne, where the saved are delivered and the damned are cast into eternal flames.

From the first downbeat, Mozart hurls the listener into chaos. Over trembling strings and blaring trumpets and timpani, the choir enters thunderously, proclaiming in terrifying fashion that the day of reckoning has arrived. The relentless pace evokes sheer panic, and at times the chorus seems to embody a terrified crowd pleading for mercy. In the hands of the master composer, this relatively short movement is packed with emotion and intensity—so much so that even without understanding the text, you can deeply feel its meaning.

On **Sunday, November 2, at 4:00 PM**, the St. Philip Choir, alongside the Houston Masterworks Chorus, will present Mozart's *Requiem* as part of a concert celebrating All Saints' Day and Día de los Muertos traditions. We hope you'll join us in the sanctuary to experience the power and drama of this remarkable piece firsthand.

In the meantime, enjoy Leonard Bernstein's thrilling interpretation with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=1Tb9HmlPuVI&list=RD1Tb9HmlPuVI&start_radio=1

Justin Langham, D.M.A. Director of Music



Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | saintphilip.net

MUSIC AT # ST. PHILIP

VOICE RECITAL Gwendolyn Alfred and Andreea Muț Sunday, October 12 | 3 pm



IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Deb Burks; Sondra Sullivan; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Rick Weiss—father of Diana Weiss; Wilma Grether—mother of Kurt Grether; Raquel Calhoun & family – sister-in-law of Pam Keever; JoAnn Moss-Ayres –mother of Casey Lambright; Kathy Bailey and family–sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith—cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes—daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians— Kitty Manson and family; Sidney Roach, Lori Childers O'Connell, Joyce Freudenberg—friends of Stephen Paine; Chris Deflandre—friend of Cara Biddle; Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood—friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende—friend of Beth Atkinson; Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Mary Watters and Mindy Cooper-Smith – friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett - friends of Robin and Gary Willis; and Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email: deacons@saintphilip.net

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pledge payments, communion gifts and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (http://saintphilip.net/) or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:

Tuesday, November 4—Deadline October 30—3:00 p.m. Stay connected with regular emails from the pastors until then.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Philip-Eye, please send them to: philipeye@saintphilip.net or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.

























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