

PHILIP-EYE

Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster
Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Justin Langham
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Diana Weiss
Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Advent at St. Philip

Praying toward Bethlehem

ADVENT SELF-DIRECTED PRAYER STATIONS

SUNDAYS | NOV. 30 - DEC. 21

9:15 - 10:50 AM | ROOM 205

A WEEKLY ROTATING SET OF SELF-DIRECTED PRAYER STATIONS
CENTERED ON GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE.
EACH STATION INVITES YOU TO PRAY AT YOUR OWN PACE
USING A VARIETY OF MEDITATION TECHNIQUES AND
SENSORY EXPERIENCES.

Lectio Divina

MONDAYS | DEC. 1-22 | 9-9:20 AM

CONTEMPLATIVE READING OF SCRIPTURE VIA ZOOM.

EMAIL [KEATAN KING](mailto:KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET) AT KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET
TO RECEIVE THE WEEKLY ZOOM LINK.

Advent Meditations

WEDNESDAYS | DEC. 3-17 | 12 PM

A WEEKLY OFFERING OF MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD
LUNCH AVAILABLE AFTERWARDS IN GATHERING AREA

SAINTPHILIP.NET

**STILL TIME
TO
REGISTER**

ST. PHILIP VBS | ADVENT 2025

SHEPHERDS ON THE WAY

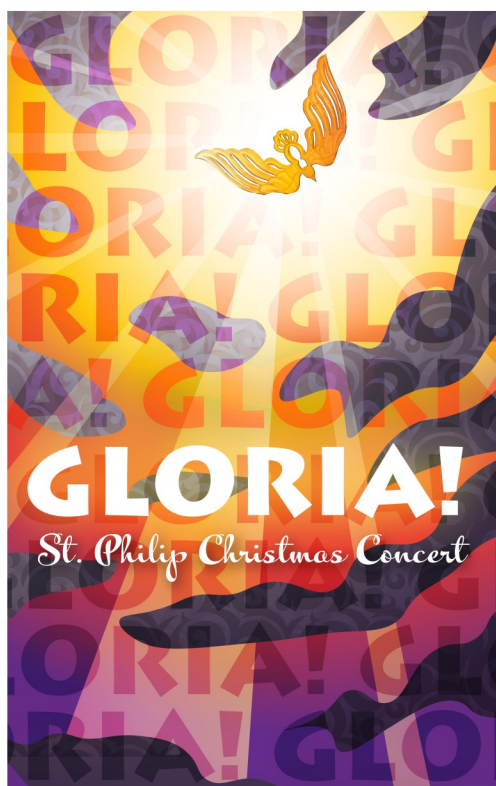
LUKE 2:8-20

PLEASE BRING
A BAGGED LUNCH
& WEAR CLOSED-TOE
SHOES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 9 AM - 2 PM
ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE ARE WELCOMED > **THERE IS NO COST**
[FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER VISIT: SAINTPHILIP.NET]

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 4807 SAN FELIPE ST. - EDUCATION BLDG.

MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP



Sunday, December 7 | 5 pm

Free Admission

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip 



It is the time to adorn our chancel with poinsettias. Beginning right away you have the opportunity to make a donation to assist with this. You can complete the form to underneath or go to the website, saintphilip.net, and click on Make a Contribution. Choose fund *Flowers*. In the optional Note put "Point" and the individual or persons you are honoring or remembering. Questions? Call Church Office at 713-622-4807 or email Lorrie Castle at:

lorrie@saintphilip.net.

Christmas Poinsettias

Donations of any amount accepted

(circle one) *I / we* would like to make a donation to purchase poinsettias to adorn our chancel during this Christmas season

(circle one) *in honor of / memory of*

Donor - Your Name(s) (Please print legibly)

Please place envelope in the offering plate or return it with your payment to the church office by Tuesday, December 16. Use additional space below if needed.

I have included a _____ check, _____ cash or
_____ will pay online.



Campus Planning Update

Did you miss the congregational forum on November 23? A presentation will also be held in the Dining Room on **December 14** at 9:30 a.m. Earlier this year, the Session authorized an exploration of how to optimize our buildings and grounds to support our current and future ministry. The architectural firm English+Associates was engaged to lead this study. Among the topics considered was the current use of spaces across the church campus, maintenance costs, looming capital expenditures, operational efficiency, environmental sustainability, and security. As the architects studied these topics, they met regularly with our planning team (Dan Boston, John Hartman, John Lemen, Rhonda Sands, Peter Schneider, and John Wurster) and gathered information from the congregation via a summer survey. At last month's Session meeting, the architects shared a very general design concept of an efficient campus plan that involves removing buildings that are past their useful lives and adding a new building that will provide better space for our ministry. In response to expressed needs from the congregation, the plan seeks to preserve green space and develop more convenient parking. The Session received this report with a consensus that it should be shared with the congregation for review and comment. Please come and help us consider how best to use our resources in service to Jesus Christ.



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24

4:30 p.m.—**A Whimsical Telling**
of the Birth of Jesus

7:00 p.m.—**Communion Service**
with the St. Philip Choir



You're invited to
The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee
Monthly Meeting
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Room 205
Immediately after worship

No need to RSVP, just show up!

If you have questions, comments, and/or suggestions please contact
Denise Wilborn (dvwilborn55@gmail.com), committee chair.



YOUTH CURRENTLY IN GRADES 8-12
ARE INVITED TO JOIN **ST. PHILIP YOUTH'S**

2026 PILGRIMAGE
FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
IN JULY 2026

Going to and from the Montreat Youth Conference (Week 5), visiting "holy sites" of the South significant to the Civil Rights movement. We welcome partnership with youth groups of congregations beyond the St. Philip community!

CONTACT **KEATAN KING** OR **OMAR ROUCHON**
[KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET | OMAR@SAINTPHILIP.NET]
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



This Sunday the Presbyterian Women will be in the Gathering Area registering guests and accepting cash and checks for the Christmas luncheon. Rev. Roberta Ingersoll will be leading the lesson using the book *"Short Stories by Jesus"* by Amy-Jill Levine - Chapter 1 - *Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Kid*. A delicious hot lunch will be provided by Demeris Catering and will cost \$20 per person. It will include charcoal-grilled Mediterranean chicken breast, Greek style potatoes, green beans and a tossed salad. Gluten free options available. Guests are asked to bring a dessert or plate of cookies for 12 people. We will collect the Thank Offering. Currently we are planning to meet in the Fellowship Hall, once reservations are finalized, we may move to the Dining Room.

Register by clicking [HERE](#), if you have trouble, please call the church office at 713-622-4807. Reservations are due by **December 14** at midnight.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

The Presbytery of New Covenant met in Baytown last month. John Lemen was elected to another three-year term as the Stated Clerk for Judicial Process. Chuck Johnson was installed as the 2026 Presbytery Moderator. Chuck joins a long and distinguished list of St. Philip elders who have held this leadership position.

Thanks to Chuck and John for their service to the larger church.

Save the Date

Sunday, January 18

St. Philip's Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee will host a Martin Luther King Day Concert with

COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER OF HOUSTON

the recipient of the Peacemaking and Social Justice African American Spiritual Fund

5:00 pm Concert

Reception following Concert

The Black composers of African American spiritual music are unknown to history and therefore unable to receive royalties directed to their estates for the use of their songs. To remedy this inequity, a fund was created in 2022 and approved by the St. Philip Session where we collect voluntary "royalties" for using this music during worship services throughout the year. The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee chose Community Music Center of Houston (<https://cmchouston.org/about/>) to benefit from these funds for the last three years. On January 9, 2025, Maurice Roberts, Director, and Dr. Anne Lundy, Music Director, stopped by and met with Rev. Omar Rouchon, Judith Hiott (P&SJ Member), and Denise Wilborn (P&SJ Chair).



To learn more about CMCH watch Great Day Houston tomorrow, Wednesday, **December 3**, at 9:00 a.m. on KHOU Channel 11, CMCH where they will share their mission, programs, and the importance of preserving Black music.

DECEMBER 2025 ELECTIONS AND JANUARY 2026 ELECTIONS

There are two runoffs in December in Harris County. To see your ballot check HarrisVotes.com. If you live in another county, check for any possible runoff elections.

There is a runoff for Houston City Council At Large Position 4 between:

- Alejandra Salinas (a member of St. Philip) and
- Dwight Boykins

There is a runoff for Houston City College Trustee District 2 between

- Rene Jefferson Patterson and
- Kathleen Lynch-Gunter

Election Day is Saturday, **December 13**. Early voting is **December 1-9**

And looking ahead to 2026:

Gov. Abbott has set **January 31** for the runoff in District 18 between

- Amanda Edwards
- Christian Menefee

**EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT AND
RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE!**

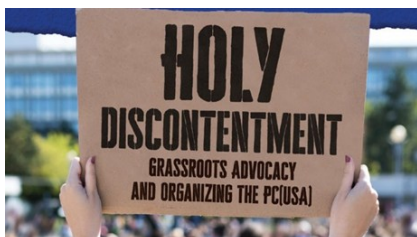
lic life through advocacy, organizing and witness. The free digital booklet link is - [https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/OPW-Holy-Discontentment-Relaunch 2025 10.pdf](https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/OPW-Holy-Discontentment-Relaunch%2025%2010.pdf). It can be used by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) members or anyone experiencing holy discontentment, which the publication describes as “a faithful discomfort, rooted in hope for something better.”

Grounded in the Reformed tradition and the social witness policies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the newly released guide offers both theological grounding and practical tools for individuals, congregations and mid councils seeking to respond to injustice, the booklet says. Being moved to civic action is a “prophetic impulse” that “is woven into our public witness,” said the Rev. Christina Cosby, Representative for Domestic Issues & Environmental Justice for OPW. “PC(USA) social witness policy repeatedly reminds the church that silence in the face of injustice is not neutrality, but complicity.” In keeping with the fact that much of the PC(USA)’s work is ecumenical and inter-faith, use of the guide is not limited to Presbyterians.

Excerpted from: https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/11/21/office-public-witness-releases-updated-citizen-action-guide-times-such-these?hss_channel=fbp-22627435207



January Birthdays



What Is Holy Discontentment?

Holy discontentment is what we feel when we look at the world and know, deep down, that something isn't right — and that it doesn't have to be this way. It's the restlessness that rises up in us when we see injustice, inequality, or suffering and sense that God is calling us to respond. It is not just anger or frustration — it is a faithful discomfort, rooted in hope for something better.

Introduction from *Holy Discontent: Grassroots Advocacy and Organizing the PC(USA)*

The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness releases updated citizen action guide for times such as these November 21, 2025

LOUISVILLE — The Washington-based Presbyterian Office of Public Witness has updated its classic “Holy Discontentment” guide for those who want to engage in pub-

Name	Day	Name	Day
Kelley Fair	1	Jennifer Brown	13
Charles Swan	1	Bonnie Moore	14
Teri Hall	1	Margaret Fair	15
Amy Irick	3	William Howard	16
Lou Allen	3	Casey Lambright	17
Jacquie Colton	3	Wendy Stewart	17
Mason Arnes	4	Lane Fletcher	17
Nick Biddle	4	Ada Fuller	19
Nina Lambright	5	Colby Stewart	21
Idalia Stevenson	5	Eleanor Grant	23
Celia Morgan	6	Denise Wilborn	24
Carmen Stevenson	6	John Wurster	26
C.J. Miller	11	Lorrie Castle	28
Dee Manley	12	Tom Cavanaugh	29
Janet Martin	12	Amanda Kirtley	29
Mike Queen	12	Joel Irick	30
Edward Atkinson	13	Angelina Fonseca-Grewal	30
Melinda Brunger	13	Frank Keever	31

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 the FollowMe discipleship practices curriculum from the PCUSA.

YOUTH—Grades 6-12 on break until January. They meet in the Dining Room, watch the calendar for announcements about Kids Against Hunger packing sessions.

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.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201—9:30-10:40 a.m.
December 7—Presentation on the mission and work of Restoring Justice by their Board Chair Chantel Mack. **December 14**—*Revelation: Reflections on Evil and Hope in the 21st Century*—Most people avoid the Book of Revelation because it seems confusing, frightening, or just plain weird. However, Revelation offers some of the most insightful reflections on evil, hope, and the role of the church in all of scripture. Join us on December 14th in the Church and Society Class as John Judson offers insights from Revelation intended to enlighten and encourage us in our task as followers of Jesus Christ. Presented by Rev. Dr. John Judson. **December 21**—Lily Frautschi will discuss her China experience and other recent adventures. **December 28**—Family Holiday Movie presentation by Kate Burkart. If you would like the Zoom link for the classes, email: jshartman01@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—We 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

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 current study book is Brian Kaylor's *Baptizing America; how mainline Protestants helped build Christian Nationalism*. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson sjj10223@gmail.com.



LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study on the first Monday of the month 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 link, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. We gather together on **December 11** 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 FELLOWSHIP—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 beginning to study "*Short Stories by Jesus*" by Amy-Jill Levine. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.

	<p>Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield</p> <p>Pastor First Presbyterian Church Greensboro, North Carolina</p> <p>Presenting Lectures February 22, 23, and 24 2026</p>	
--	--	---

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kay Cash; Pam Taylor; 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; Wilma Grether—mother of Kurt Grether; 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 Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians—Greg Anderson—friend of Lorrie Castle; Ann Swanson—friend of Deborah Unruh; 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; Carter Lindley, Tandi Porter, 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.

To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:
Tuesday, January 6—Deadline December 31—12:00 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.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



foursquare
home



Instagram
saintphilip



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net