



July 1, 2025
Volume 69, Issue 8

PHILIP-EYE

VOLUNTEER WITH CCSC'S BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Since 1986, Christian Community Services Center has equipped students of low-income families with school supplies. On Saturday, July 26 from 9:00-11:30am, St. Philip is forming a group of 15 volunteers to help package school supplies at Faith Lutheran Church located at 4600 Bellaire Boulevard. Volunteers ages 5 years old and up are welcome, and parental supervision is required for children ages 12 and under. To sign up, email Keatan at keatan@saintphilip.net



JULY COMMUNION OFFERING



Faith In Practice is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization improves the health and wellness of underserved Guatemalans through health-related medical missions, community-based health initiatives, robust partnerships, and education while fostering spirituality and compassion in our patients and volunteers. www.faithinpractice.org

St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families.



Although the Day School was founded by members of St. Philip Presbyterian Church and is located on the church campus, it operates as a separate legal entity.

To support the school, **please make all contributions directly to St. Philip Day School**, rather than to St. Philip Presbyterian Church. This helps streamline record-keeping and avoids placing additional administrative burden on church staff. If you wish to make a contribution in the future, please make checks payable to "St. Philip DAY SCHOOL" You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. At this time the school cannot accept electronic gifts. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Harris, Program Director, at Director@stphilipdayschool.org.

ST. PHILIP LIFE—WE ARE LIVE

We have transitioned to a new software package to help church members see what is happening, track your giving, access the directory, register for events, communicate with your committees, and see your volunteer assignments like ushering and communion service. More features will be available soon. If you are not already signed up, please contact Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net. She will then send you an activation e-mail from: "St Philip Presbyterian Church (Houston, TX) via Ministry Brands Amplify" with the subject line: "You have been invited to join St Philip Presbyterian Church (Houston, TX)." This e-mail is part of the transition process, and you should click the "Accept Invitation" button to register with our new system.

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



Immigration Forum, June 21st

Saturday, June 21st, went well as an initial effort for a Peacemaking and Social Justice summer Saturday morning forum. I am impressed and humbled by all of the presenters who shared their expertise and compassion during the Immigration Forum. The presenters are amazing! Two speakers are young adults who are DACA students living what they spoke about. Their stories woven with the information and data they shared made this current situation even more real and immediate. The other presenter works with international students at a local public university. Stories of current international students' fears and concerns were also shared. In addition, this speaker shared concrete ways we as individuals, and possibly as a committee and a congregation, can support students from abroad living and negotiating university life during these particularly stressful times. Several individual case-by-case situations in the ever-changing maze of documentation and due dates and criteria were shared helping participants better understand the fears and concerns of immigrants and international students, and the reasons prompting these fears. This current administration is creating intentional confusion and fear. One of my takeaways - There are more people out there helping that I, we, are not fully aware of. Rev. Dr. William Barber is encouraging "public theology." He also stated, "Democracy is not a spectator sport." My second, possibly more important, takeaway - Spread the knowledge and information I learned. Speak up and be a voice for the vulnerable!

Denise Wilborn, P&SJ Chair

Painful Decisions

The following confidential statement is shared with the permission of the student and the permission of the St. Philip member who received the narrative. Denise Wilborn, P&SJ Chair

I am an international PhD student living and studying in the U.S. on a valid student visa. Recently, I had to make the painful decision to cancel travel plans to see my family which included missing my sister's baby shower and my best friend's wedding. Even though I am here legally on a

student visa, married to a U.S. citizen, and have never had any issues before, the uncertainty and fear created by recent government policies and rhetoric around immigrants made me feel like traveling might jeopardize my ability to return and so dramatically impact my studies and future career. It was a heartbreaking choice. Being away from family is already hard enough, but this added fear and isolation have made it even more difficult as I have no clue when the situation will improve and when I can comfortably travel again.

And what's more, is that we're being told we can't even speak up. Free speech is supposed to be a core value here, but many of us are afraid to express our experiences or political views. Students like me are being threatened, arrested, and even having their very valid visas revoked just for speaking out or disagreeing with the current political climate. So not only did I (and many others like me) have to miss important moments with my family, we live with the fear that everything we've worked so hard for, such as years and years of education and sacrifice, could be taken away in a moment's notice simply for sharing our opinions.

Sadly, my story is hardly one of the 'bad ones' as many others face far more devastating consequences. These policies are not just rules on a paper. They are huge decisions that directly impact people, relationships, and mental health.

REFLECTIONS ON IMMIGRATION

Orlean Anderson

Given the confusion about due process, and the heated rhetoric about who deserves and does not deserve the American Dream, and the rise of ICE and the military in our towns and cities, I have made it a priority to try to learn as much as I can about the ongoing argument that seems to tear at the fabric of our Democracy. Gathering information through trusted sources and just "knowing more" help me feel more in control and more focused on what I consider to be my moral obligations. It was with this mindset that I attended the Peace and Social Justice program on IMMIGRATION that Denise Wilborn organized last Saturday, June 21st.

Yes. I know what's going on: men waiting near convenience stores for odd jobs are handcuffed and thrown into unmarked cars; women, as they walk to a store or church, are abducted by masked men; families are divided like cattle with no idea where they or their children will end up. These are the media's emotional scenes that make me *feel* that I understand the situation. But I also know that there is much more to know and to understand at a deeper level.

Saturday, in room 201 at St Philip, two young Latino women taught me much more and in such an unexpected way about immigration in America. I assumed the session would be heavy on emotional stories, a time where those of us in the room would dig into our pockets for tissues,

and, yes, there were personal experiences shared that had us shaking our heads in anger and sympathy, but these women were here to give us hard, cold, detailed facts that would engender a deeper understanding of what undocumented immigrants face, and they did so with clear-eyed, objective, organized, and professional urgency. They created an almost overwhelming reality of what it means to live day by day as an undocumented immigrant in 2025 America.

These two women spend their days teaching, advising, and counseling others about how to stay safe, how to be prepared in a nation where many see immigrants as criminals or job-takers. Our presenters provide counseling and detailed packets of practical advice and support to the immigrant community in their efforts to clarify the bewildering maze of visas, the unending regulations with arbitrary deadlines, and the tricks and loopholes in the process as well as the shifting deadlines and the impossible costs of becoming “legal.” They make sure their neighbors know never to leave home without might-be needed-in-an-emergency documents such as visas and birth certificates, lists of lawyer’s names and phone numbers, a predetermined location to flee to, and a “lifeline” contact - for the one phone call you are allowed to make to the one person who will know what to do when you are taken. Our presenters attempt to keep others safe by flooding their communities with, possibly, life-saving information. Their work is unending and fearless and, boy, are they good at it!

As I listened and learned, I felt not the usual, “Oh, my how terrible, how sad,” but the realities of the harrowing struggle faced by undocumented immigrants in America who must be ready for their lives to be derailed as they go to school or report to work or drop a child off at daycare or shop at a grocery store. I studied slides and charts prepared by our presenters and began to construct a vivid picture of the debilitating exhaustion of surviving day to day in Texas - in America - as undocumented.

As these two professional advocates explained the legalities and illegalities that are embedded in the plight that immigrants face under the current administration, we at St Philip Presbyterian, typically, kept thinking and asking, “What can we do? How do we help? How do we fight against these injustices?” Realistically, the answers are almost as frustrating and elusive as the situation: I came away with the three personal priorities: **Pay attention. Speak out. VOTE and CONVINCE OTHERS to VOTE.**

Judith Hiott

The DACA recipients who spoke at our the Immigration Workshop in June were extraordinary in their commitment. After spending years advocating for a path to citizenship, one spent two years collecting documents for her DACA application from all the schools she attended while her family followed migrant work opportunities. One was attending college and one had graduated and was working at the University of Houston. They were paying taxes that

would likely never be returned to them in the form of Social Security. Their advocacy has continued as paid and volunteer workers for St. James Lutheran Church’s immigrant assistance services. Their knowledge of quickly changing government policies about the most vulnerable immigrant populations was thorough and presented with professional ease. All this, while living in fear that the program that allows them to stay in the United States could end at any time. Losing this knowledge and leadership potential would be a tragic loss for our country and a heart-breaking outcome for millions of Americans.

IMMIGRATION REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Immigrants’ Rights

<https://www.aclu.org/we-have-rights>

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>

Protesters’ Rights

<https://www.aclutx.org/en/know-your-rights/freedom-of-speech-right-to-protest>

P&SJ will have a table in the Gathering Area with additional information, including “Family Preparedness Plan” and “Immigration Preparedness Toolkit” compiled by Immigration Legal Resource Center (www.ilrc.org).

CONTINUE TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! 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/>.

**Save the Date
P&SJ 5th Sunday**

Earth Care

Composting and Recycling

Sunday, August 31st

Immediately following worship

Room 201

Lite Bites

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets on first Monday nights, 7-8 PM, by zoom to read and discuss social justice issues of our day. Interested persons who want to be added to our zoom mailing list 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— On recess until further notice. 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. Please watch your email for details on the next meeting date will be changing. The book discussion will be about *Normal People* by Sally Rooney at 7:00 PM at the home of Nina Lambright. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP— On recess until **September 12**. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:45 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 has temporarily been moved to Room 100 off the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE ON RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7

We offer a variety of Sunday school classes during the school year for children, youth, and adults. Please visit our Learning page at saintphilip.net to learn about our class offerings in the fall.

MAHJONG ANYONE?

Three St. Philipians and a guest have been playing Mahjong on Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at St. Philip. We are interested in substitutes with the possibility of forming a second set if there is enough interest. We may also be open to additional times. 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

Welcome to the first in a series of explorations of the themes of generosity and gratitude, expressed in the title above of a recent book by Presbyterian pastor, lecturer, and worship leader the Rev. Karl R. Travis. Your 2025 Stewardship Committee has adopted this title 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. The book, and our engagement with it, aims to help us rethink our approach to stewardship, focusing on the generosity of God, ourselves, and our church community. Each month we will share some "thought provokers" from Travis's book, and later we will offer opportunities to engage together in our own experiences of and hopes for our personal generosity and the generosity of St. Philip. For our first outing here, we will consider the generosity of God and what Travis calls "generosity for God," and we will begin to explore generosity *with* God.

- Someone said that there are only two prayers: please and thank you. *Please* precedes God's generosity. *Thank you* is our response to God's generosity.
- The Christian story is the saga of a loving creator so compelled by love, so possessed of grace, so hungry for relationship that there seems no end to God's willingness to give. And there is no limit to God's capacity to give.
- List God's gifts in a litany of thanksgiving and we might well conclude that *give* is the Bible's most significant verb. God so loved the world that God gave.
- Generosity *for* God (giving because we are supposed to) is good so far as it goes. But we want more than to *do* generosity. We want to *become* generous. We long to be generous alongside God, like God, as God, with God.
- If generosity *for* God is about obedience, generosity *with* God is about identity. When we are generous *with* God, we participate in the sublime progression of God's eternal hopes for the world and for God's people.
- How will you use all that God has given you to participate in God's generosity? This is the question driving our generosity, at least if we long for a generosity more profound than transacting charity on God's behalf, practicing generosity *for* God. This is the question capable of energizing a generosity practiced alongside God, with God.
- At the beginning, within the middle, and at the end, God's story is the ongoing epic of *with*.

We are excited to explore with the St. Philip family the biblical principles and practical applications of generosity!

Questions? Thoughts? Ideas? Feel free to contact the 2025 SP Stewardship Committee chair, Kate Burkart, at burkart.kate@gmail.com.



August Birthdays

Name	Date
Liz Miguez	1
Jenny Towns	1
Beth Atkinson	2
Steve Adger	4
Meg Scott-Johnson	4
Walter King	5
Phil Stevenson	6
Keith Weber	6
Sarah Bertrand	7
Jim Crain	8
Steve Nettles	8
Tina Bryan	9
Mark Takayama	9
Ned Benson	10
David Fox	10
Bill Maguire	11
Colleen Nelson	11
Jeanie Flowers	12
Janet Davis	15
Kip Frautschi	17
David Wood	20
Michael Alexander	22
Stuart Red	22
Junius Allen	24
Maggie Dement	24
Lucas Leonardson	24
Nancy Lomax	24
Jenilee Simmons	24
Max Wennenweser	24
Alejandra Salinas	26
Aileen Todd	26
Ralph Cherrillo	27
Denise Ferrell	27
Jan Fox	27
Laurie Sims	27
Rowan Murphy	29
Quincy Victorian	29
Joyce Randolph	31

THE ROAD HOME

As I write this, I begin my trip back to Houston after a rewarding trip to Europe visiting friends and family in various countries. Using London as a home base, where my partner Andreea's sister resides, I took a few separate trips, including a few days in Stockholm, Sweden to support Andreea and our local Houston Chamber Choir at the last stop of their tour.

The HCC tour, which encompassed concerts in Estonia, Latvia, and Sweden, marked the end of founder Bob Simpson's 30-year tenure as Artistic Director of the ensemble. Some of you may already know that Andreea is a prolific (a.k.a. very busy) pianist in the Houston area, and she has been the devoted pianist for the HCC for nearly 10 years. My own personal history with the group, other than the 8.5 years spent as the person who came along with Andreea, has also been incredibly formative.

As I transitioned from a "trumpet player" into the choral world, I felt as though I was wandering without knowing the way forward. As I navigated my new path, Bob would become an invaluable resource, allowing me to attend rehearsals freely, always responding to my many questions with kindness, and each time I have been fortunate enough to be offered a position, such as here at St. Philip and recently the Houston Masterworks Chorus, Bob has always sent an enthusiastic and congratulatory email. Through the wilderness, my time around Bob and the HCC helped me to find my way.

One of the pieces included in the HCC tour was the choral gem "The Road Home" by Stephen Paulus, which profoundly expresses the comforting feeling of arriving at "home." The piece is divided into three moving verses, each separated by a short interlude, paired with a beautifully harmonized and singable tune from the 1835 "The Southern Harmony" collection. Beloved by choirs and listeners alike, this short piece embodies the idea that the most powerful statements are often the simplest.

I have heard the HCC perform this piece a number of times over the years, but hearing it this time in Stockholm, while the harmonies echo around a beautiful cathedral and reflecting on the impact of a 30-year legacy was a different depth of meaning entirely.

Enjoy the HCC in a recording and video made just a few years ago:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6jLuFaU0n0>

Justin Langham, D.M.A.



IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Jane Larkin; Joy Maguire; Stewart Coffman; Bonnie Moore; Rollie McGinnis; Russell Bahruth; Jeremy Mattern; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Susan Huffman; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Jo Hadley Smith—cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes, daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Jacqui – cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; Terese Murphy - cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; 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; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians—Elaine Ende – friend of Beth Atkinson; Marianne Keeswood – friend of Kate Burkart; Jennifer McCrea, 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; Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett - friends of Robin and Gary Willis; Jackie Janacek, Joyce Freudenberg– friend of Stephen Paine; 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, August 5—Deadline July 31—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.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



foursquare
nomads



Instagram
saintphilip



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net