



September 2, 2025

Volume 69, Issue 10

# PHILIP-EYE

## SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING ST. PHILIP DAY SCHOOL

An additional offering is received when communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month which is given to an organization the Mission Committee has identified. September's offering will benefit the **St. Philip Day School** a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. You can make a secure contribution through [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) and choosing the Communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with "Communion" in the memo line by **September 26**. [www.stphilipdayschool.org](http://www.stphilipdayschool.org)

## COME AND SEE THE ST. PHILIP DAY SCHOOL

The St. Philip Day School is fully outfitted, and we warmly invite you to join us for a tour before or after the worship service this Sunday (Rally Day). During your visit, you'll have the opportunity to meet our Director, **Candice Harris**, and our newly appointed Assistant Director, **Edolia James**. Together, they form a dynamic team that is steadily guiding us toward our opening day later this year.

We're pleased to share that we've completed all the necessary steps to apply for licensing with the State of Texas. That application is being submitted this week.

We are now accepting applications and conducting interviews for **three lead teacher positions**. If you know of any strong candidates, please share their names with Candice.

Soon, we'll begin introducing our school to the broader community and inviting families to apply for enrollment. We're thrilled to offer a **tuition-free early educational experience** for young children and their families. As part of this unique outreach initiative, one adult from each family will participate in a training curriculum and serve one day a week as a classroom assistant.

This vision is made possible by the incredible generosity of St. Philippians—past and present. Thank you for the support you've already given. We look forward to keeping you informed and engaged as we move closer to opening day.

John Hartman  
Board President

## RALLY DAY

The church will be brimming with activity on Sunday, September 7. We return to our Sunday School year with our annual "Rally Day" celebration. All ages are invited to join in the Gathering Area at 9:45 for refreshments, fellowship, and a chance to learn about opportunities for education. If you are looking for a new class, the Education Committee encourages you to consider checking out a new class—Enneagram taught by Rev. Holly Heuer. The Church & Society class will meet in Room 201 for their annual Rally Day reunion.

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

## 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.

**ELEMENTARY**—Grades 1-5—Room 205.

**YOUTH**—Grades 6-12—Dining Room—Kids Against Hunger.

**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—New Sunday School**—Room 202—We will begin a new church school class on the Enneagram. You may wonder what that is, and why we are offering this class at St. Philip. The Enneagram is a “power tool” for self-awareness, compassion, leadership and personal development. But the Enneagram is old. It has roots in several wisdom traditions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Seven of the nine Enneagram types are associated with the “capital” or “deadly” sins which originated with the Desert Fathers. It was used in monastic circles as a guide for spiritual direction. But today it is taught as a system of looking at nine distinct human personality patterns.

Rev. Holly Heuer, who worships here at St. Philip will be teaching the class. She is a certified instructor and has taught the Enneagram widely in church settings. She uses the Enneagram in her spiritual direction practice and constantly in her daily life. She believes that it is one of the best maps for knowing ourselves and moving towards our greatest potential.

The aim of the class is to develop self-awareness and self-knowledge through the practice of presence. That is, being aware in each moment of the presence of God. No prior experience is necessary, only a willing and curious spirit. If you think you might attend the class, Holly will share a bibliography of online resources, so that you can get acquainted with the Enneagram. And if you are interested in identifying your “type pattern,” she is happy to chat with you in person or over zoom. You can contact her at: [hollyheuer@ecentral.com](mailto:hollyheuer@ecentral.com).

**CHURCH & SOCIETY**—Room 201—9:30 a.m.—It is our Rally Day custom to invite class participants to send us via e mail your answer to a fun question that other class participants will enjoy reading. The answers can be a great source of conversation. Here is the question we invite you to answer: "What is something you did, some place you visited, or an experience you had during this last year which renewed you and why?" You can send your answers to John Hartman at [jshartman01@gmail.com](mailto:jshartman01@gmail.com) for circulation to our mailing list.

We will invite the speakers for our fall term to visit our Rally Day class in person or via Zoom and give brief introductions to their topics. We know some will take us up on this. In any case, we will give overviews of each upcoming program. We have vibrant presentations and discussions that you might really enjoy. Here is the fall 2025 program lineup:

**Sept. 7 - Rally Day** – Introduce future Programs/ speakers. Learn about favorite places class participants have traveled.

**Sept 14 - Dr. Julieana Nichols** to discuss efforts on behalf of children with the Texas legislature.

**Sept. 21 - Cindy Judson** to discuss what we've learned about how living with poverty impacts the ways people think and live. **Candice Harris**, St. Philip Day School Director, will provide an update on the SPDS startup.

**Sept. 28** - Class will participate in a guided discussion of questions from the book “God's Gift of Generosity: Gratitude Beyond Stewardship” as part of preparations for the St. Philip stewardship season.

**Oct. 5 - Rev. Gregory Han** presentation on Nostra Aetate on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this watershed declaration by the Catholic Church.

**Oct. 12** - Columbus – Science and Religion by **Bruce Yaeger**.

**Oct. 19 - Linyan Zheng**, Rice Religion PhD student, will present: *Religion & Writing Therapy: H.D.'s Resurrection Myth as a Case Study*

**Oct. 26 - Kyle Sherling**, Rice Religion PhD student, will present: *Abraham: Father, Prophet, Philosopher, and Imperial Founder*

**Nov. 2 - Rev. Dr. John Nelsen** – Tres Rios Presbytery Border Ministry program update.

**Nov. 9** - Presentation on Christian Nationalism by **Sara Jean Jackson**

**Nov. 16** - Program on Americans United for separation of Church and State. – **Omar Rouchon**.

**Nov. 23 - Justin Langham** on Music for Advent.

**Nov. 30** - Presentation by **Rabbi Steven Morgen** entitled "It Takes Two to Relevate: A Modern Jewish Approach to Understanding the Prophets."

**Dec . 7** - Presentation on the mission and work of Restoring Justice by their Board Chair **Chantel Mack**.

**Dec. 14** - To Be Announced

**Dec. 21 - Lily Frautschi** will discuss her China experience and other recent adventures

**Dec. 28** - Family Holiday Movie presentation by **Kate Burkart**.

The C&S Leadership Team

# Kids Against Hunger®

## PACKING SESSIONS



THE NEXT PACKING SESSION IS:

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**9:30 AM-10:30 AM | DINING ROOM**

**SPOTS ARE LIMITED!**

EMAIL [KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET](mailto:KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

UPCOMING PACKING SESSIONS:

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 9:30-10:30 AM**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 9:30-10:30 AM**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 9:30-10:30 AM**

## ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP**—What does it mean to be a Christian in these times? Our study group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 p.m., to discuss social justice issues of our day. Beginning in October we will begin a new study book: *Baptizing America; how mainline Protestants helped build Christian Nationalism*, by Brian Kaylor. Interested persons who want to be added to our mailing list can contact Sara Jean Jackson: [sjj10223@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:john@saintphilip.net).

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. We will discuss *James* by Percival Everett at the next meeting on **September 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](mailto: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. On September 12 we will continue studying "They Walked With God" by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used

them. It lets us know that he has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at:

[ggardne148@aol.com](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com).

## MAHJONG ANYONE?

St. Philipians 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.

**"NEURODIVERSITY AND WORSHIP"** workshop, Saturday, **Sept. 13** - 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.—We will look at the topic through the eyes of experts in the field in pre-recorded interviews and through hands-on engagement with churches who are already working on making the worship space inclusive of all. All expenses except travel will be paid for by the Wonder of Worship/Columbia Theological Seminary project. This includes registration and materials, lunch, and accommodations as needed. Email [omar@saintphilip.net](mailto:omar@saintphilip.net) for more information.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, **September 21**, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service of worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect seven persons to serve as elders in the Session class of 2028; to elect one person to serve as a trustee in the class of 2028; and to elect **two** persons to serve two-year terms on the congregational nominating committee. At the meeting, the nominating committee will present the slate of nominees listed below. Additional nominations may be made during the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

**Elders:** Junius Allen, Orlean Anderson, Linda Ewing, Sam Fisher, Amy Morriss, Carrie Bratton Pepi, TBA

**Trustee:** Dick Nunn

**Nominating Committee member:** Jim Crain

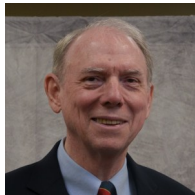
**Central Mission Endowment Committee:** Butch Wilson

FYI—The membership of the Session consists of ordained and installed Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (Pastors), all elected by the congregation. Session members are responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation and for oversight of all the programs and ministries of St. Philip. The Session carries out its work primarily through its Standing Committees. The session meets the third Tuesday of each month.

## RULING ELDER

### Junius Allen

Junius was born in Helena, Arkansas, and grew up mostly in Jackson, Mississippi. He is a lifelong Presbyterian and served on a Session for the first time at University Presbyterian Church in Austin while he and his wife Lou were in graduate school at UT Austin in the 1970s. Junius later served on the Session at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. His service and interests in previous churches have been in finance, missions, and peacemaking and social justice. Junius and Lou moved to Houston in 2001 and had the good fortune to see their daughters move to Houston within the next ten years. He started serving on St. Philip's property committee in late 2021 and joined the church shortly thereafter. As a semi-retired civil engineer, the property committee has given Junius a chance to mix service to the church with his technical interests in construction, foundation design, and structural engineering. He enjoys sailing, snow skiing, and teaching plane geometry in an international school startup.



### Orlean Anderson

Orlean remembers when her family moved from Colorado to Houston in 1952, following her father taking a new job. She, along with her brother and her mother, a life-long Presbyterian with

Scottish roots, felt displaced and lonely. Orlean reflects, "God heard my mother's prayers and led us to St. Philip, a church just beginning its mission." She settled into the sixth grade Sunday school class and, several years later, the youth group, each led by remarkable people who nurtured her civic and spiritual life. In 1963, Orlean graduated from Texas Tech with a degree in education and history and an engagement ring. She and her husband, Kenneth, were married at St. Philip. While living in New York, Orlean taught vacation bible school and served on the board of the church-backed day care center. The years at United Christian Parish enriched her understanding of Christian community. In 2008, Orlean returned to Houston a widow, and moved into a house she inherited from her parents. She now lives happily with her son and daughter-in-law. Orlean initially attended a large Presbyterian church near her home but noticed that something felt "off" there. It took a couple of months before the light dawned: "Why was I not at St. Philip?" Orlean treasures the joyous inclusivity of the congregation, the challenging and inspiring staff, the exploration of the Peace and Social Justice classes and the commitment of the Monday Social Justice book group. "I thank God for the light that led me to St. Philip."

### Linda Ewing

Linda grew up at St. Philip as her then newlywed parents Jack and Ruth joined our Congregation in 1951. She has vivid memories of Sunday School, Children's Choir, Fourth of July breakfasts, softball games in Memorial Park, the annual fundraising FIESTAs for Juan Marcos Presbyterian Church, her confirmation and first communion in the Sanctuary, and even a 1988 production of "The Music Man" in the Fellowship Hall. A graduate of USC, she regularly attended Hollywood Presbyterian Church during her seven and a half years in LA, and was a member of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian where she was very involved with the Meals on Wheels program during her 11 years in NYC. She transferred her membership back to St. Philip not long after finally deciding it was time to come home and would not have missed those last 13 years hanging out in Houston with her wonderful Mother for the world. For 25 years, Linda made her living in the theater world as an actor and eventually director. Once she decided she had had enough applause to last a lifetime, she did a complete 180 and for the last 15 years has served as an In-Home Caregiver for Alzheimer and Dementia patients as she always enjoys the company of senior citizens. Linda is very honored to have been asked to serve and will do her best if approved by the Congregation.



### Sam Fisher

Sam is a Presbyterian preacher's kid who grew up in College Station, Texas, and graduated from Texas A&M University. Sam joined St. Philip in 2011. She knew the moment she walked through the door that this was the place for her. It was as if

God had spoken to her saying, 'Welcome home.' Sam is a retired systems engineer. She cared for her dad after she retired and really felt blessed to do so. She currently helps two dear friends who, in the past, played a pivotal role in her life. Sam loves the outdoors and every creature that crawls, slithers, swims, flies, or walks. She also dearly loves Montreat, North Carolina. As her maternal grandmother used to say, first through the Montreat Gates, then through the Pearly Gates! Sam thinks it would be an honor and privilege to serve this church she loves so very dearly, this church she calls home.



### Amy Morriss

Amy grew up largely unchurched. She first joined a Presbyterian church in 1999 after marrying lifelong Presbyterian Casey Morriss in 1998 and feeling called to find a faith community. Since that time, Amy has been a member of six PC(USA) churches across the country as she moved with Casey's work. She joined St. Philip in the fall of 2024 after the most recent move. Amy has become involved with the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, the Social Justice study group, and the Church and Society class. In addition to being a wife and the mother of a twenty-two-year-old son, she is an instructional support specialist with a team of educators at the University of Texas-Austin and supports high school engineering teachers across the country. Amy also serves as a volunteer mentor with an all-girls robotics team. She enjoys hiking, reading, and spending time with friends and family.

### Carrie Bratton Pepi

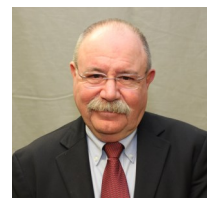
Carrie grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, and was confirmed at Westminster PC. Her family moved to Houston in 1972. Carrie became a member at Saint Philip in 1974, spending her teenage years in the church. Upon returning to Houston from Tulane University, she became a member at First Presbyterian Church, and remained there until 2003. That year, Carrie returned to Saint Philip with her own family. Returning to Saint Philip meant worshipping together with her children, husband, parents, siblings, and their families. Carrie has enjoyed participating in the weekly Wednesday Bible study classes. She served for ten years as an intake volunteer with the Christian Community Service Center. Her mother and sisters have both served as elders at Saint Philip, and her father served as a deacon. Carrie is grateful for many years of worship at Saint Philip with her family. Outside the church, she has been an advocate for green space in Houston, serving on both the Memorial Park Conservancy and Buffalo Bayou Preservation Partnership Boards. She is also active in the Garden Club of Houston. Carrie and Al have a farm in New Ulm, where they spend much of their leisure time. They have three grown sons, all living in Houston.



## CMEF

### Butch Wilson

Butch is a lifelong Presbyterian. Raised in western Maryland, he met his greatest asset—his wife, Anne—while in high school. After both graduated from the College of Wooster in Ohio, they married and moved to Houston in 1973. Butch began a career in exploration geology and management in the oil and gas industry after completing his master's degree at Rice University. Although he officially joined St. Philip in 2013, his connection to the church goes back much further. During the late 1990s, Anne was on staff, and their son was active in the youth group. Butch treasures the friendships he and Anne have formed through the St. Philip community. Butch has served in several capacities, including as a trustee and as a ruling elder. In 2017, he assumed leadership of the Kids Against Hunger mission, helping to expand and sustain this vital ministry. He has also given his time and energy to multiple committees, including Mission, Personnel, Finance, Stewardship, and Central Mission Endowment Fund. In retirement, Butch enjoys driving. Sometimes it even involves trips to see friends and family! Their three grandsons and their parents live in Nashville, TN and Akron, OH. These journeys keep them close to family and filled with gratitude.



## TRUSTEE

### Dick Nunn



Dick is a native Houstonian and a lifelong Presbyterian. He was baptized at First Presbyterian Church in Houston and grew up at Bellaire Presbyterian Church. As a college student, Dick served at Bellaire Presbyterian on a pastor nominating committee and as a deacon. He met his future wife, Judy, at senior high fellowship there, and they married at Bellaire Presbyterian in 1969, after graduating from college. While at Bellaire Presbyterian, Dick and Judy sponsored the junior high and senior high fellowship groups. When their two daughters were young, Dick and Judy transferred their membership to Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church (MDPC). There, they served as adult sponsors for the college-age fellowship and taught various preschool Sunday School classes. Dick was ordained as an elder at MDPC and served twice on the Session there, chairing the personnel and music committees and serving two terms as Clerk of Session. When MDPC decided to leave the PC(USA), Dick and Judy transferred their membership to St. Philip where Dick has served on the Session and the Finance and Personnel Committees. He is a graduate of Rice University with bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, and master degrees in accounting. Dick has served on various committees and the board of directors of the Association of Rice Alumni, San Jacinto Girl Scouts, and Brazos Presbyterian Homes. Dick is "semi-retired" and

works from his home at Brazos Towers at Bayou Manor. Dick and Judy are enjoying their two daughters and their son-in-law and particularly enjoy watching their two grandsons become young men.

## CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### Jim Crane

Jim Crain is a native Houstonian who was confirmed at Christ Church Cathedral. He joined St. Philip in 1988 when he married Nadene. He was drawn to the Presbyterian denomination because it allows for questioning and skepticism, while having a strong faith. Jim feels the St. Philip congregation resonates with the "Come and see" message from the Gospel of John. He is a former choir member, high school Sunday School teacher, and member



of the Fellowship and Stewardship committees. He also enjoys the Church and Society Sunday School class. Now retired, Jim had a career in computers. Always a music lover, he plays classical guitar and is Treasurer of Houston Classical Guitar Festival and Competition held at St. Philip every June. He also enjoys cooking for family and friends, fishing, watching his two grandsons in Austin grow up and trying to train Finnegan, a Terrier mix who thinks he is a cat.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL LUNCHEON

PW All-circles kick-off Luncheon is on Sunday, **September 21** following worship. Keatan King will be leading the lesson using our new book "*Short Stories by Jesus*" by Amy-Jill Levine. **September 16** is the last day to reserve your lunch. Lunch will be provided by Alonti and will cost \$15 per person. You can register a guest. If you are coming but do not want to eat lunch there is the option to register without a meal so we have enough seats set up for you.

All options include plain potato chips and a cookie; gluten-free (GF) options include a GF chocolate chip cookie.

- A. Chicken Caesar wrap: Grilled chicken, romaine lettuce with shaved parmesan, and our own creamy Caesar dressing wrapped in a honey wheat tortilla.
- B. California Club: Roasted turkey, bacon, provolone cheese, avocado, tomatoes, lettuce, and mayo on ciabatta
- C. Stacker: Ham, roasted turkey, bacon, Swiss cheese, Roma tomatoes, fresh Spring mix, zesty horseradish spread and a drizzle of Italian dressing on our focaccia bread.
- D. Capri Chicken: Marinated sliced chicken, fresh mozzarella, red onions, roasted red peppers, spring mix, basil mayo and pesto on our wheat bread.
- E. GF—Chicken Cranberry Kale Salad: Kale and spinach, diced marinated roasted chicken, dried cranberries, black bean corn salsa, garbanzo beans, roasted pumpkin seeds and Swiss cheese. Served with a lime vinaigrette.
- F. GF—Tuscan Turkey sandwich on GF bread: Sliced turkey, roasted red peppers, caramelized onions, avocado, Daikon sprouts, lemon aioli and pesto
- G. Attending but do not need a lunch is an option.

### To register:

- 1 - if you have the new Church app you can go to Events and register
- 2 - you can scan the QR code to the right
- 3 - or you can click on this link: <https://giving.myamplify.io/App/Form/9bcbb9e0-69f0-49af-99df-9bce71da42cc>



[PW FALL LUNCH]

## INDIVIDUAL CIRCLE MEETINGS BEGIN IN OCTOBER

Thursday Evening Circle	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month	7:00 p.m.	
Monday morning Saints	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month	10:00 a.m.	
The Hallmark Circle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month	1:30 p.m.	
Sunday Circle	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month	12:30 p.m.	Potluck Salad Luncheon
One more chance study	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month	10:00 a.m.	



### October Birthdays

Name	Date
Pamela Ewing	2
Joy Maguire	3
Michael Huffman	4
Julie MacLemore Wells	4
Florence McKelvey	4
Connor Arnes	5
Jim Barrish	5
Al Waldrop	6
Jane Larkin	7
Karina Perez-Boston	7
David Chess	9
Elizabeth Duerr	9
Lisa Wellington	9
Jeromy Murphy	10
Todd Murphy	10
Kristen Huffman	12
Sally DeMent	15
Linda Miller	15
Charles Johnson-Kelly	16
Roderick James	17
Speight Anderson	19
Joyce Fox	19
Miles Smith	19
Liz Crowell	20
Charles Sullivan	20
Mary Linda Williams	20
Lad Perenyi	21
Abby Ticken	21
Sara Jean Jackson	22
Chuck Johnson	22
Lori Murphy	22
Tom Lewis	23
Sue Shirley Howard	23
Laura Burgess	25
Jane Cooper	25
Jane Malczewskyj	26
Dale Miller	26
Omar Rouchon	26
Trisha Tolbert	27
Trent Atkinson	29
Bill Camfield	29
Robert Ford	29
Kurt Grether	29
Wayne Truxillo	29
Charles Tolbert	30
Laureen Suba	31

## GLORIA TO MUSIC!

September is upon us, and although Houston normally feels like anything but fall this time of year, we are quickly ramping up fall activities. Schools of all levels are beginning the new semester, Costco has already put out Thanksgiving and even Christmas decorations, and all things music are back at it around St. Philip.

Among the many groups making music weekly on our campus, the St. Philip choir has restarted weekly Wednesday night rehearsals after a much-deserved summer break. Even as a student, I always loved this time of year. The sense of a fresh start and nothing but planning and possibilities – like a fresh notebook with blank pages – was always so exciting to me. Now as music director, that excitement is amplified by the members of the choir, who have already brought their energy and enthusiasm to the first few rehearsals of the season. We can't wait to share all of the wonderful music we are working on this fall, including a very special event in November.

On Sunday November 2nd, the St. Philip choir will combine with the Houston Masterworks Chorus for a concert entitled "Réquiem de los Muertos," a celebration of All-Saints and Dia de los Muertos traditions. The program will include Mozart's beloved *Requiem* bookended by selections from *Misa Criolla*, a wonderful work by Argentinean composer Ariel Ramirez. While the Mozart is incredibly popular, less of the musical public is aware of *Misa Criolla*. To give you a taste, here is the rousing *Gloria* movement performed at the Vatican by representatives of the Ministry of Culture of the Nation from Argentina. Their energy is infectious!

We are looking forward to continuing to share meaningful music with you each week at St. Philip, and hope you will consider joining us for "Réquiem de los Muertos" on November 2nd at 4:00pm in our beautiful sanctuary!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1zirOg97IY>

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





MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

**Masterclass with**  
**Douglas Cleveland**, organist  
**Saturday, September 13**  
**10 am to Noon**

&  
**ORGAN CONCERT**  
with guest trumpet player, Brian Kai Chin  
**Sunday, September 14 | 3 pm**

**Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church**  
4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net)

**FOLLOW US ONLINE**  **Music at St Philip**

# THE GENEROUS PATH: CULTIVATING GENEROSITY THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

## GOD'S GIFT OF GENEROSITY: GRATITUDE BEYOND STEWARDSHIP

These past couple of months, we have begun to explore in this space 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 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.



This month we continue with Travis's thoughts on the power of generosity. But before we dive into that, it might be a good time to reintroduce the central thesis of the idea of generosity not so much *for* God (being generous because it is what we are supposed to do) but more *with* God (working in partnership with God to transform through generosity). Here again is Travis's summary of these ideas:

Gratitude Beyond Stewardship

“...Our generosity takes two forms: an initial response, generosity *for* God, which limits us to transaction, and generosity *with* God, which engages us in transformation and prepares us within for fuller relationship with God. We have celebrated that *for* can lead to *with*, that treasure leads our hearts and not the other way around. And we have observed that when we engage in relationship *with* partners in our generosity, *with* awakens us to more than we had dreamt. The ultimate *with* is God.

We are God's partners.

If practicing generosity *for* God is limited to mere transaction, practicing generosity *with* God is wholly transformational.

To practice generosity is to engage in God's transforming power to make something that we *do* into something that we *are*.

When Jesus' disciples are generous *with* God, we are transformed.

Now, back to...

### The Power of Generosity

We have previously considered generosity's power

- ...to inspire gratitude
- ...to clarify want vs. need
- ...to redirect our economic gaze

This month we'll consider how generosity can shape our lives of faith in three important ways:

#### 1. Dethroning the idols of our age.

Travis names materialism, consumerism, and acquisition as today's chief idols. *Consumerism* is often described as buying things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like. *Materialism* teaches that what is real and valuable must be bought, owned, or sold—yet Christians know our worth is not measured by what we acquire. As Calvin reminds us, none of us deserves anything; instead, “we get what God gives.” The gospel is not about getting what we deserve but about receiving God's abundant love. So how do we say thank you? Through generosity.

#### 2. Practicing a spiritual discipline.

Generosity is an ancient discipline that deepens our trust in God. Jesus assumed giving would be part of a faithful life: “*When you give...*” (Matthew 6:2), not *if* you give. Travis suggests that sharing often precedes caring: first we give, and then our hearts grow. Giving is good for us as individuals and as a church community, because it strengthens our reliance on the One who owns all things.

#### 3. Living our call as believers.

When congregations receive offerings (rather than simply “take collections”), we affirm that giving is a willing act of faith toward shared mission. The church's generosity plays a redemptive role in the world and grows us into the likeness of Christ. As Travis puts it, two biblical truths free us for this journey again and again: “*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it*” (Psalm 24:1) and “*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want*” (Psalm 23:1).

We're excited to explore, together as a church family, the biblical foundations and practical expressions of a generous life.

**Questions, thoughts, or ideas?** We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to the 2025 Stewardship Committee at:

[stewardship@saintphilip.net](mailto:stewardship@saintphilip.net).



## WHIRL OF EMOTIONS

Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, Emily Estill and I walked into a room full of college students filled with all the energy and range of emotions college students bring to the beginning of a new school year. These students are a unique group because they are all international students about to start a new academic year at University of Houston Central Campus. We were there at the invitation of Ida Thompson, Designated School Official (DSO), International Student and Scholar Services Office at UHC. On the 21<sup>st</sup> there was the International Student and Scholar Services Information Fair, a facet of their orientation opportunities. Ida hosted a table for Seriously Speaking Toastmasters, an organization which supports international students as they practice and hone their public speaking skills in a non-threatening and encouraging setting. Making the connection through Emily, Ida was invited to speak this Summer at the Peacemaking and Social Justice Immigration Forum. She shared with Forum participants the growing concerns international students faced then, and continue to face now, as they navigate the constantly shifting and changing federal policies; and as immigrants and international students face potential threats to their safety and their freedom to study here. I looked around at the room full of students, taking in the whirl of emotions: excitement, anxiety, possibly an inkling of confusion, playfulness, curiosity, creativity, and a sense of joy as they set out on their next leg of their academic journeys. I also wondered in awe at the courage I imagined many of them carry with them into a foreign country where some are not invited or welcomed. I trust with the passion, compassion, openness, and experience Ida brings to her role, countless students will find a listening ear, a caring voice, and a capable guide during their time at UHC.

*Denise Wilborn, Peacemaking and Social Justice Chair*



## PURSUE WHAT MAKES FOR PEACE

On World Communion Sunday, *October 5*, St. Philip will receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, supporting peacemaking, reconciliation, and global witness. One of the four Special Offerings\* mandated by the General Assembly [the highest governing council of the Presbyterian Church (USA)], this offering empowers us to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world.

By reserving 25% of each congregation's offering amount for use in the local community, the Offering also supports the peacemaking and reconciliation efforts that align with each congregation's passion. This year, at the recommendation of St. Philip's Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, and with Session approval, our 25% of local receipts will go to St. James Family Life Center, which provides emergency assistance—food, rent, and utilities relief—to immigrants. The Center also offers ESL classes for beginners, as well as citizenship classes and immigration counseling sessions. Located in the Heights, St. James Family Life Center supports and walks alongside our immigrant neighbors. This past June, two speakers from the Family Life Center shared their personal stories and their experiences supporting Houston's immigrant population during the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee's immigration forum.

With mid councils retaining a further 25% to support peacemaking efforts at the regional level, and the remaining 50% supporting peacemaking, reconciliation, and global witness at the denominational level, the Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages and equips us to find and address the anxiety and discord that are prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

To watch a short video about the Offering: <https://vimeo.com/1097925528?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Please join us in a spirit of generosity for those who are marginalized in our city and those who need our witness to the peace of Christ in a world where peace is often at risk.

\*Do you know the other three Special Offerings? They are: One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering, and the Christmas Joy Offering, and St. Philip receives all four, making us a "Four by Four" congregation that joins in the efforts of Presbyterians around the corner and around the world to share God's grace and endless love!

## COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE LATE AUGUST, 2025

If you drive along the back side of the Fellowship Hall, you'll find a small patch of grass with two raised plant beds made out of concrete blocks. This humble space is home to the St. Philip vegetable garden, a fertile spot for nurturing our congregation's care for neighbors and God's creation. A ministry of St. Philip (and supported by the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee) for over a decade, the garden produces hundreds of pounds of vegetables each year. All of these are donated to the CCSC Emergency Services food pantry. Volunteers plant, tend, and harvest the garden, using organic methods—no pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

In the garden right now, you will find an explosion of greenery in one bed. These are sweet potato vines; the potatoes underneath will be harvested in late October or early November. The other bed is now fallow, after producing a bounty of veggies from April (the first lettuces) to July (the last of the tomatoes and cucumbers). In summer of 2025, the garden produced roughly 120 pounds of tomatoes, 56 pounds of cucumbers, 65 pounds of greens (collards, kale, and chard), 10 pounds of leaf lettuce, and just under 9 pounds of jalapeno peppers, that were delivered to CCSC. Some of the collards and kale are still growing, so we will harvest a few more pounds of those before they are done. We did lose a fair number of ripening tomatoes to insects and rot this year, unfortunately. But hope springs eternal in a garden, and we hope we'll have a bumper crop next year.

There will be opportunities for planting fall/winter vegetables and for harvesting sweet potatoes in October/November. Everyone is welcome to be part of the St. Philip garden. If you would like to know more or learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Cathy Patterson at [cpatters@swbell.net](mailto:cpatters@swbell.net).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nick and Cara Biddle, new members of St. Philip, are originally from the Philadelphia area and have been in Houston about two years. St. Philip was recommended to them by Cara's home church pastor. They visited and fell in love with it.



Cara is in the PhD program at UT Health M.D. Anderson. Nick just started medical school at Baylor so they are very busy, but they enjoy exploring Houston especially the restaurants and museums. Their favorite hobbies are hiking and camping and they have been able to enjoy the Salt Lake City area this summer as well as parks closer to home.

Cara is singing in the choir and is involved with the Peacemaking and Social Justice group. Ask them about their pet fish called Wanda!

## LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL NEEDS OUR HELP

Liberty High School - a mission partner - is geared toward helping recent immigrants learn English and earn their high school diplomas. We can help these students by donating the following basic essentials: feminine pads, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body soap, body cleansing wipes, deodorants, dry snacks (cookies, chips, granola bars) and small bottled water. If you would like to contribute to this unique and impressive school, please place items in the boxes located in the Gathering Area. And thank you so much. The smallest kindnesses can make such a profound impact. Questions contact Tina Bryan at:

[tinairene@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tinairene@sbcglobal.net).

# PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP | RM 205

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH  
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT OUR MINISTRIES AND HOW  
WE ARE STRIVING TO CREATE JUSTICE.

**WE CHOOSE WELCOME**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT DENISE WILBORN**  
AT [DWILBORN55@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DWILBORN55@GMAIL.COM)

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*The Frautschi family upon the death of father and grandfather Rev. Stewart Coffman who died on August 29. A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m.*

*The family and friends of Edith Patterson who died on August 12.*

*Tom Cavanaugh and family upon the death of wife, Barbara Cavanaugh on August 18. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m.*

*The Vestal family upon the death of mother and grandmother Carolyn Vestal on August 21. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.*

*St. Philippians and their families*—Judith Hiott; Jane Larkin; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick & Judy Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebrey; Raquel Calhoun & family – sister-in-law of Pam Keever; JoAnn Moss-Ayres –mother of Casey Lambricht; John Palisin—brother, Kathy Bailey and family—sister of Peg Palisin; 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; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood—friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende—friend of Beth Atkinson; Audrey Eubank Harris, 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; 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](mailto: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, October 2—Deadline August 28—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](mailto:philipeye@saintphilip.net) or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT  
PRESBYTERIANS



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