

January 7, 2025
Volume 69, Issue 1

PHILIP-EYE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR 2025

Celebrate your wedding anniversary, family birthdays, or memorialize your mother and father by sponsoring the chancel flowers on Sunday morning. Please sign up to sponsor the flowers on the date which you prefer by contacting Lorrie Castle at 713-622-4807 or lorrie@saintphilip.net or you may go to saintphilip.net the calendar page and click on the chancel flower picture. Sandra Truxillo, Flower Coordinator, will call you the week you chose to sponsor flowers to discuss the type of flowers and the message you would like in the bulletin. The standard arrangement for chancel flowers is \$130, special requests or exotic flowers may cost more.

PHILIP-EYE UPDATE

As we expand our use of social media platforms and e-mail updates to promote church events and activities, the Philip-Eye newsletter will transition to a once-a-month publication schedule beginning in February. This change will also allow for a more efficient allocation of staff resources. Remember Sunday worship bulletins, including the announcements and the prayer list, are always available on the church website.

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

Rev. Dr. 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

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN
Women's Retreat
FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

*The Inner Landscape
of Beauty*

JEANNIE DUBOSE, SPEAKER
CAMP ALLEN IN NAVASOTA, TX

Watch your email details to register
coming soon.

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP



"A NEW YEAR CAROL"

It may be hard to believe, but not all carols are Christmas carols...

In fact, many of our oldest carols were not tied to the Christian calendar until the Reformation, which increased the amount of congregational participation in Christian services. However, a carol's original purpose –from roughly 1350–1550– was as dance music, processions for festivals, or as a musical accompaniment to plays. The word "carol" actually originates from the Old French word *carole*, which was a traditional circle dance with communal singing. Although we sing a large percentage of carols during the Christmas season, they come in all shapes and sizes and are still used to mark other occasions such as the harvest, winter, or new year's.

English composer Benjamin Britten has a broad catalog of carols varying in style and scale. "Levy-Dew", also known as *A New Year Carol*, is a traditional British folk song of Welsh origin that is traditionally sung during New Year celebrations. Britten's version, which pairs a simple melody and harmonic structure with the carol's whimsical text, was published in *Friday Afternoons*, a collection of songs for weekly singing at the Welsh school where his brother served as headmaster.

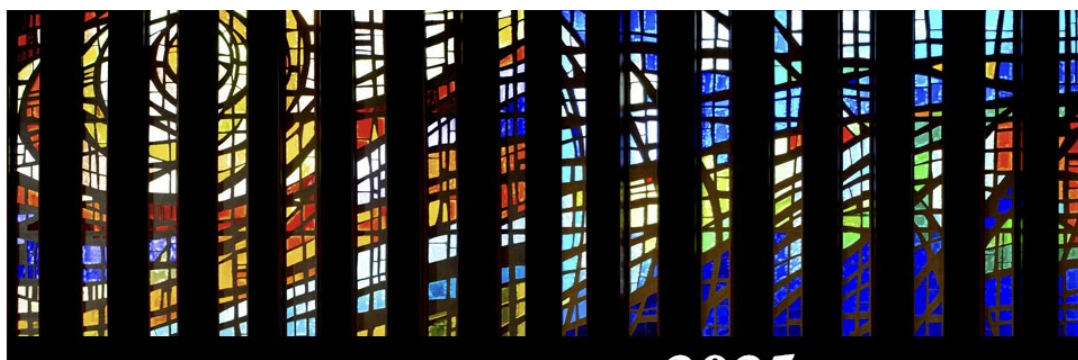
The simplicity and child-like nature of Britten's version harkens back to the carol's origin: a ceremony in Wales where children would draw fresh water from a well and sprinkling water over neighboring houses, all the while singing the "Levy-Dew" carol. This tradition was viewed as bringing good fortune in the coming year.

May this lovely song also bring you and your loved ones a safe, happy, and prosperous 2025. Happy new year!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9Yr4w4ZWiw>

Justin Langham
Director of Music

*Duerr
Lecture
Series*



2025

Mark your calendars for

Dr. Brian K. Blount

President Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA
Scholar, Author, Pastor

Speaker for the 28th Annual Duerr Lecture Series,
February 23, 24, and 25, 2025



2025 CHURCH OFFICERS
ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SESSION

<u>Class of 2025</u> Dan Boston Laura Burgess Maggie Dement William Howard Mary Thornton McGuire Gary Whitney Nancy Beck Young	<u>Class of 2026</u> Selena Brinegar Kate Burkart David Castro Ada Fuller Kurt Grether John Hartman Mickey Meyers	<u>Class of 2027</u> Tina Bryan Sherri Dees Pam Keever Sarah Victorian Al Waldrop Denise Wilborn
Clerk of Session: John Lemen Treasurer : Rhonda Sands		

THE DIACONATE

Beth Atkinson Jane Cooper Governor Frazier	David Fox Joyce Fox	Ann Frautschi Mary Thornton McGuire Gary Whitney
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THE TRUSTEES

Casey Lambright	Pam Taylor	John Van Osdall
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COMMITTEE LEADERS of ST. PHILIP

EDUCATION Mickey Meyers, Chair Sarah Victorian Nancy Young	MISSION David Castro, Chair Tina Bryan Mary McGuire	STEWARDSHIP Kate Burkart, Chair John Hartman
FELLOWSHIP Laura Burgess, Chair Ada Fuller Kurt Grether	PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE Denise Wilborn, Chair Kate Burkart	WELCOME & MEMBERSHIP Selena Brinegar, Chair
FINANCE Al Waldrop, Chair Dan Boston Pam Keever	PERSONNEL William Howard, Chair Ada Fuller Al Waldrop	WORSHIP & MUSIC Maggie Dement, Chair Sherri Dees Gary Whitney
	PROPERTY Dan Boston, Chair John Hartman Pam Keever	

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 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 START
AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—ROOM 103

CHILDREN: Grades 1-5—Room 205—God's Family At Worship - through February 2—The Education Committee is offering an intergenerational workshop for our elementary Sunday School students, their families, and the entire congregation. The workshop, “God’s Family at Worship,” is a series of five classes. The classes will be co-led by pastors, staff, and highlight the practices, rituals, and routines of worship in our community

YOUTH—Grades 6-12—DINING ROOM—Youth families will turn the Sunday School hour into a time to revive the Kids Against Hunger program as leaders in our congregation.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—We are studying of Proverbs in Dr. Robert Alter’s *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM to deepen our understanding of God’s faithfulness to God’s people from Dr. Alter’s translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—ROOM 201—Join us from **9:30 AM—10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **January 12** - "The State of St. Philip Presbyterian Church" - by Rev. Dr. John Wurster, Pastor and Head of Staff - St. Philip Presbyterian Church - "The State of the Denomination" by Rev. Lynn Hargrove - General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process at Presbytery of New Covenant - **January 19** - To commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day - “The Amazing Journey of Houston Holocaust Survivors Linda and Morris I. Penn and Riva Kremer” - Hy Penn weaves an amazing tale of survival and hope as he takes us on the Holocaust journey of his parents Linda and Morris I. Penn and maternal grandmother Riva Kremer from eastern Europe to Houston, Texas. From the Grodno, Poland ghetto, Linda and her mother Riva survived 9 different camps including Majdonik, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen, and Theresienstadt. Morris was hidden by Christian farmers near his home of Vilkaviskis, Lithuania - Hyman Penn, M.D. is a longtime docent at Holocaust Museum Houston and a member of the museum’s board of advisors. He is a recently retired pediatrician. **January 26** - When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic - And What We (the Church) Can Do About It—Can the church

be an antidote to the mental health crisis for adolescents affected by a high pressure achievement culture that invites them to jump into a perfect storm of meaningless, joyless, mostly-hopeless striving towards unobtainable goals that are unlikely to be fulfilling even if obtained? Can the church provide a supportive nurturing community that offers a sense of “mattering” - a sense of meaning and purpose? Presented by Dr. Laura Lomax-Bream, Director of Center for Wellbeing and Success - Psychologist at The Kinkaid School and Rev. Keatan King - Associate Pastor at St. Philip, with focus on ministry with youth and young adults. **February 2** - Innovation is Renovation: The Lord’s Prayer

as a Site of Transformation in the Occult Revival—presented by Camden Roy - PhD Student in American Religions in Department of Religion, Rice University In partnership with Rice University’s “Humanities and Communities” Project, upper-level Ph.D. students in the School of the Humanities are taking their research “beyond the hedges” in an effort to make their work available and accessible beyond the academic community. At the turn of the 20th century, many Christians reconsidered their faith in light of the development of scientific materialism and encounter with religious texts from India. Departing from their home traditions into a sea of strange and fascinating movements (now referred to under the banner of the “Occult Revival”), these seekers created personal religions through the fusion of new and old ideas. In this presentation we’ll consider how the transformation of the Lord’s Prayer allowed for three religious seekers to re-approach their relationship with Christianity. Camden Roy is a PhD student in the History of Religions and Early Christianity in Rice University’s Department of Religion. Originally from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, he holds a B.A. in Ancient Mediterranean Cultures and Italian Studies from the University of New Hampshire. Camden’s research interests are the history of the Occult Revival and its relationship with early Christianity, especially Gnosticism. He focuses specifically on the role of intermediary beings (angels, fairies, gods) in transtheist movements and their relationship to human self-transformation. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL—In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship in the chapel, while also praying, seeing 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. The Children’s Chapel is held every 2nd and 4th Sunday when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to

participate in this during the worship service.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK



SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—

This group meets on first Monday nights, 7-8 p.m., by zoom to read and discuss social justice issues of our day. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson (sj10223@gmail.com) to be added to our zoom mailing list.

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 AM, 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 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. The next meeting is **January 9** at 7:00 PM. We will discuss *The Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Brammer. 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 AM. We are learning from *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at:

ggardne148@aol.com.

January Birthdays		
Kelley	Fair	1
Teresa	Hall	1
Charles	Swan	1
Linda	Allen	3
Jacqueline	Colton	3
Amy	Irick	3
Rollie	McGinnis	3
Mason	Arnes	4
Nina	Lambright	5
Idalia	Stevenson	5
Celia	Morgan	6
Carmen	Stevenson	6
CJ	Miller	11
Elias	Han	12
Janet	Martin	12
Mike	Queen	12
Jennifer	Brown	13
Melinda	Brunger	13
Bonnie	Moore	14
Margaret	Fair	15
William	Howard	16
Lane	Fletcher	17
Casey	Lambright	17
Wendy	Stewart	17
Ada	Fuller	19
Colby	Stewart	21
Eleanor	Grant	23
Denise	Wilborn	24
John	Wurster	26
Lorrie	Castle	28
Caleb	Han	28
Tom	Cavanaugh	29
Holly	Crisp-Han	29
Amanda	Kirtley	29
Carolyn	Vestal	29
Angelina	Fonseca-Grewal	30
Joel	Irick	30
Frank	Keever	31

February Birthdays		
Caryn	Bahruth	1
Nan	Schissler	1
Bill	Morris	3
Grayson	Bratton	4
Steven	Lawson	4
John	Lindsay	4
Claudia	Wilkinson	4
Mark	Young	4
Beverly	Baker	5
Diane	Clarke	5
Susan	Lange	5
Gay	Van Osdall	5
Gary	Willis	5
Ava	Arlinghaus	7
Susan	Leonard	8
Jon	Martin	9
Liz	Williams	10
Jamie	Benard	11
Scott	Holden	11
Oak	Kim	11
Karen	Winship	12
Lucia	Queen	15
Molly	Vestal	15
Elizabeth	Hadaway	16
Martha	Red	16
Jonathan	Davis	18
Julia	Fox	18
Jennifer	Miller	18
David	Durham	19
Joseph	Webster	19
John	Bratton	20
Cindy	Judson	20
Pete	Bunch	21
Nancy	Castro	24
Shirley Ann	Frautschi	25
Laura	Perez-Boston	26
Miles	Frey	27
Renee	Wright	27
Suzanne	Kerr	28

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Dan Cleveland; Robin Willis; Dick Howard; Jeremy Mattern; Carmen Stevenson; Nidhal Aldarraji; Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; Roderick James; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Jacqui – cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; Raquel Calhoun –sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Terese Murphy- cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Paige Everhart – sister of Nancy E. Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians – Brenda Paulk – friend of Bonnie Moore; Janet Rowlands – friend of Mary Mcguire; Audrey Eubank Harris, Pete & Gloria Benevides, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Stephen Wedemeyer and Mary Watters - friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Jackie Janacek, Bill Ward, Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; 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/>), text “SPPC” to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net or Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net.

You can still turn in your pledge card via mail, dropping in the offering plate, the church office or going online :-> **My St. Philip** (icon at top of webpage) > **Sign In** > enter email & password > **Sign In** > **My Giving Summary** > **Pledge Now** > **Add Pledge** > fill in the appropriate information > **Save**. Thank you!

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:
Tuesday, February 4 - Deadline ~~January 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.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



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