

PHILIP-EYE

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IN THE GATHERING AREA

Join the Education and Mission Committees on **December 3** at 9:45 a.m. for a festive morning! We will wrap Seafarers' Christmas boxes, do a little Advent crafting, swap favorite holiday recipes, and sing a few carols. You are invited to bring your favorite recipe (s), printed or written out. You can bring copies for people to take home, or you can just bring one copy for people to photograph. If you want to bring samples, yum! All ages are welcome, in the Gathering Area.



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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist & Interim Choir
Director

Micah Meyers
Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

Come. Step away from the holiday hustle. Give yourself the gift of time. Join us for a morning of gentle yoga and silent prayer during this busy season. We will enjoy the stretching, grounding and centering that comes with yoga, using chairs or your mats in the Gathering Area. In the sanctuary, instruction will be offered on centering prayer/lectio divina. Then we will open our hearts and minds to God's presence with us in the quiet. All are welcome. No experience required. Babysitting available. COME. SEEK. FIND. For more information, contact Betsy Boston at ehbluzerne@aol.com.

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!



ST. PHILIP VBS | ADVENT 2023

The Message of Angels



SATURDAY, DEC. 2ND 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.
 ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE ARE WELCOMED > **THERE IS NO COST**
 ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 4807 SAN FELIPE - EDUCATION BLDG.

* PLEASE BRING A BAGGED LUNCH & WEAR CLOSED-TOE SHOES

[FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER]
 VISIT: **SAINTPHILIP.NET**

STAFF UPDATES

Having served as our art director since 2013, Micah Meyers is completing her work at St. Philip to take a new job in San Antonio. Her final day with us will be December 4. As we honored Micah this summer on her tenth anniversary at St. Philip, John Wurster said:

Micah's work is almost always the first point of contact for people coming to St. Philip. Before a word is spoken by a pastor, before a note is played on the organ, people have already been engaged by Micah's work through our website and various social media platforms. Before anyone takes a seat in a pew, they've already seen Micah's campus-wide work: The big sign on San Felipe, the parking lot signs, the directional signs, the butterfly sculpture, the interior video screens, the cover of the worship bulletin. That's all Micah. Pretty much the first step in any program or event we do is to get Micah to design promotional materials in print and digital formats. A lecture series, a baseball game, a picnic, a communion offering, VBS, Earth Day, Mo-Ranch, Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter. That's all Micah! But there's still more: billboards, notecards, sticky notes, pew cards, photo displays for funeral receptions and for all sorts of special occasions. That's Micah, too!



We are thankful for Micah's creative and faithful work at St. Philip for these past ten years. May God bless her as her journey continues!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

May 2023

Stated Session Meeting In-Person and via Video Conferencing – May 16, 2023

- Session elected Kate Burkart Acting Clerk of Session for the May 16, 2023, stated meeting.
- Session invited Hallie Spence, Director of Christian Education at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, Texas, to lead the congregation at St. Philip Presbyterian Church in worship at the 11:00 am service on Sunday, June 4, 2023.
- Session authorized the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of John Shiloh Brooks Brewer, son of member Julia Fox and her husband, Alex Brewer, on Sunday, June 4, 2023, at Mo-Ranch during the St. Philip retreat worship service, with the Rev. Keatan King officiating.

Committee and Council Actions:

Worship and Music Committee approved an expenditure of \$300.00 from the Worship and Music budget as an honorarium for Hallie Spence.

Called Session Meeting – May 21, 2023

- Session received into membership Bill and Karen Morris by letter of transfer from The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church.
- Session received into membership Diane Clarke by reaffirmation of faith.

June 2023

Stated Session Meeting In-Person and via Video Conferencing – June 20, 2023

- Session approved the removal of Christine Scott Gench from the rolls since she has joined St. Martin's Episcopal Church back in 2017.
- Session approved the transfer of Jerri Workman to St. Thomas Presbyterian Church who joined that congregation on December 1, 2022.
- Session elected Gary Gardner, Maggie Dement, Angelina Fonseca, Mary McGuire, and Nancy Young to serve as ruling elder commissioners to the July 15, 2023 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church.

Called Session Meeting – June 25, 2023

- Session received into membership Colleen Blackwell Nelson by letter of transfer from Westminster Presbyterian, Arlington, TX
- Session received into membership Florence and Pete Bunch by letter of transfer from Christ Church Presbyterian Church of Bellaire, TX.

July 2023

Called Session Meeting – July 16, 2023

- Session received into membership Olga Piskor by reaffirmation of faith.

John Lemen
Clerk of Session

AMAZING PLACE BREAKS GROUND

Thanks to your generosity, construction has begun on [Amazing Place West](#)! The outpouring of love, joy and faith at our November 2 groundbreaking in Katy was a momentous occasion as our dream of having multiple campuses to serve families facing the challenges of dementia and Alzheimer's across the greater Houston area is finally becoming a reality! Because of you, we have raised almost \$14 million in reaching our \$20 million *Amazing Together* campaign goal.

Alongside you, we look forward to expanding our services in this beautiful, second campus for us to call home. Thank you for standing alongside us and continuing to help raise the needed resources to serve our community in such an important way. Our hearts are full.

Amazing Place is looking for volunteers to play Mahjong with constituents at AP. If you are interested, please contact Carol Cooper at (713) 552-0420.

NEHEMIAH ELVES

The children and families enrolled at the Nehemiah Center face many challenges throughout the year. Our goal with the Nehemiah Elves program is to alleviate any extra burden families may face during the Christmas season. The children create their own lists for Santa and the parents are surveyed to uncover any family needs. These gifts are picked up by parents and distributed to the children by the parents. We are thankful our families are creating lifelong memories with their children at Christmas. Additionally, this is a wonderful opportunity for donor families to create memories within their own families while planting seeds of generosity. We are grateful to our community for helping spread joy during this season! Merry Christmas!

Families can sign up for a Nehemiah family with Jazmine Rosas at:

irosas@nehemiahcenterhouston.org

- Ms. Rosas will send a Christmas list with gift requests from the children and parents
- In addition to the request donors will receive a picture of the family
- Gifts should be wrapped and have nametags
- Gift drop off at the Nehemiah Center is December 4th through December 15th
- <https://www.nehemiahcenterhouston.org/>

DEMOCRACY, FAITH, AND THE RISE OF CHRISTIAN NATION- ALISM

On **December 5**, Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston is sponsoring a lecture by Amanda Tyler, Executive Director, of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. Her presentation and a follow-up panel discussion with area faith leaders will explore the importance of safeguarding religious freedoms and the current challenges posed by

Christian Nationalism.

Lunch & Speaker – 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Optional Workshop Included – 1:00 PM – 2:30PM

Cost: \$25.00 —Your ticket includes lunch. Vegetarian options will be available on site.

Location: Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church.

Advance registration is required at [this link](#).

An optional, workshop after the keynote address and discussion will be held in the same room at no additional cost. Please remain in the room after a brief break and the program will resume shortly.



All Saint Philip Women are invited to

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S

Christmas Luncheon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

immediately following 11 am worship

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Rev. Charlotte Kibler, speaker, will cover *Sacred Encounter's* 4th lesson. Christmas carols to follow.

★ Bring your favorite Christmas cookies!

COST: \$15

Financial assistance is available, please contact the church office.

RSVP BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10.

ADVENT AT ST. PHILIP

Everyone is invited to attend **midweek Advent services**, continuing on **December 6, 13, and 20**. The service begins at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. Lunch is available in the Gathering Area at 12:30. These services of scripture and song are grounded in the Advent themes of hope and expectation. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. Prepare the way of the Lord!



December Birthdays

1	Julie	Itz
1	Julia	Irick
3	Brenda	Thompson
3	Tyler	Lippincott
3	Evelyn	Varner
5	Antonia	Helland
5	Virginia	McMaster
5	Ed	Hess
6	Jean	Stanley
6	Jared	Ewing
6	Micah	Goodman
7	Jim	Lomax
8	Larry	Wright
9	Doris	Cantrell
12	Pam	Keever
13	Stewart	Coffman
13	John	Van Osdall
13	Douglas	Hannah
13	Margaret	King
14	Orlean	Anderson
14	Paloma	Frautschi
14	Nicholas	Arlinghaus
16	William	Taylor
17	Edith	Patterson
18	Judy	Hill
18	William	Baker
19	Ellis	Newport
27	Katherine	Boone
28	Daniel	Cleveland
29	Vicki	McKay
29	David	Lindsay
30	Don	Padgett
30	Shiloh	Brewer
31	Jim	Waggoner
31	Judye	Hartman

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIP

DECEMBER 24

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

“All Creation Waits

Candlelight Services

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

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



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 Monday, **December 13**. Use additional space below if needed.*

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

Pay online by going to the saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting *Flowers/Holiday* as the fund and putting **POINT** in the memo. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). *Email if you wish to honor/remember to lorrie@saintphilip.net*

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 our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. 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 104

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-5—Room 105

YOUTH—Grades 6-12—Room 205

CHURCH & SOCIETY -Room 201—Join us from **9:30**

a.m.—10:40 a.m. with presentations in person and by Zoom. Wrapping up the November series of presentations focusing on the interfaith community, **November 29** - “A Rabbi’s Perspective on the Israel-Gaza War” Presented by Rabbi Steven Morgen - Congregation Beth Yeshurun. **December 3** - “St. Philip Quilts for God’s Precious Children” - Hope Wilmarth (Fiber Artist and St. Philip Stitchers) tells the story of the origin of the St. Philip Stitchers, who have provided hundreds of beautiful hand-made quilts for children at SEARCH Homeless Services’ House of Tiny Treasures, children in refugee families, and countless children in need. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

FAITH & LIFE – Room 200—An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. Using the short stories in *The Gift of Hard Things: Finding Grace in Unexpected Places* by Mark Yaconelli, participants will read a short text in class and then engage in conversation as a group. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—We resumed our study of the Kingdom of Judah at 2 Kings 18 with the story of King Hezekiah in Dr. Robert Alter’s *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** 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.

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. Children will be able to participate in this during the worship service.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

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. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to john@saintphilip.net. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

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

WOMEN’S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **December 14** at 7:00 p.m. and it will be a social so watch your email for details of the next meeting. 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 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This reading and discussion group meets on the first Monday, 7-8 p.m., by zoom. As an activity of the Peacemaking/Social Justice Committee, the group provides a forum for the study and discussion of social justice topics (racism, immigration, globalism, climate change, current events, etc.) within the framework of the church and guided by our faith. The current study book is *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, by Emmanuel Acho. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at sjj10223@gmail.com.

MONDAYS IN ADVENT—LECTIO DIVINA ON ZOOM—December 4, 11, 18 at 9:00-9:20 a.m.—What is Lectio Divina? The ancient desert fathers and mothers believed that scripture was like a love letter written to us by God. Thus, the meditative, guided scriptural reflection known as *Lectio Divina* ("divine reading") assumes that God speaks to us intimately, God is already praying in us, and we'll experience a profound encounter with the heart of God, rather than an intellectual study of scripture. Keatan King will guide the group through the four cycles of Lectio (read, reflect, respond, rest) for 20 minutes every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. for the season of Advent. To prepare, you are encouraged to choose a comfortable place to sit wherever you are (at home, work, in the car) and all participants will have video off and sound off during the Zoom. If you would like to participate email Keatan at keatan@saintphilip.net.

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philipians and their families—Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Pat Lindsay; Mark Takayama; Ben Dees; Shirley Coffman; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Beverly Hudson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; John Palisin – brother of Peg Palisin; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Darryl Cazes—brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson.

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

Friends of St. Philipians— Aleksandra Y. Skochilenko – Nancy Higgs; Caitlan Prescott – friend of Mary McGuire; Mary Watters – friend of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Boyd – friend of Kate Burkart; 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.

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.

Next edition: Tuesday, December 5; Deadline **November 29—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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foursquare.com



Instagram
saintphilip.net

4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net