



November 5, 2024

Volume 68, Issue 19

# PHILIP-EYE



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Editor Emerita

Here ye, here ye, get your Christmas shopping done early On Sunday, **November 10!** We will be serving coffee, wassail and pastries in the morning if you shop before church. This year, the congregation, visitors, family and friends are invited to stay after church for a taco lunch served in the Fellowship Hall. You can shop first and eat after or eat first and shop after. 9 –11 AM and 12-1:30 PM

The Alternative Gift Market hosts all our mission partners in one place as well as the St. Philip Stitchers, Equal Exchange, and other groups. Some organizations have items for sale that you can purchase as Christmas gifts or you can give a charitable, tax-deductible donation in someone's honor. You have the opportunity to speak directly with representatives about what their organization is doing in the community or abroad, and how the St. Philip congregation can support them in the future. A complete list of mission partners participating are listed on the next page.

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS CENTER

You have probably seen the collection boxes in the Gathering Area near the Mission table and wondered what they are for. The Mission Committee is collecting items to pack, wrap and deliver shoeboxes in December to the Port of Houston, a project that has operated for 50+ years in Houston. St. Philip has been a part of this mission for many years and some of our members have served on their advisory board.

Last year, the Houston International Seafarer's Center distributed 8,659 shoe boxes full of useful items donated to visiting Seafarers from 386 ships representing 36 nationalities. By donating items and wrapping the filled boxes each Christmas, we help to show love and care for the sailors who sometimes are away from home and loved ones for months at a time. A complete list of items is listed on the next page. Thank you for your support of this important mission project.

You can bring your donations to church on Sunday or deliver to the Church Office during the week. Please have your donations to the church by **November 17.**

We no longer collect recycled shoe boxes for this project, cash donations allow us to purchase plastic shoeboxes that become an extra gift for the seafarers.

## MISSION PARTNERS AND ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE ALTERNATIVE MARKET

Ars Lyrica  
 Austin Seminary  
 Beacon  
 Bridges to Life  
 Christian Community Service Center  
 Equal Exchange product sales  
 Faith In Practice  
 Haiti Children's Nutrition Program  
 Have Shears Will Travel  
 Houston Hope of the Nations  
 Interfaith Ministries Greater HOU  
 Kids Against Hunger  
 Kids' Meals  
 Living Waters for the World  
 Lord of the Streets

Medical Benevolence Foundation  
 Mission of Yahweh  
 Mo Ranch  
 Pan American School  
 Plant it Forward  
 Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services  
 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
 Project Cure  
 Schreiner University  
 Seafarers  
 SEARCH  
 St. Philip Mission Committee\*  
 St. Philip Stitches  
 United Campus Ministries

\* A new St. Philip t-shirts will be available.



### Kids Against Hunger

Visit the Kids Against Hunger table at the Alternative Gift Market to try the new meal formula we're packing: Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal! And sign up to be one of the first 20 members of the congregation to pack meals on Sunday, **November 17** at 9:30 AM!



## PLEASE HELP THE SEAFARERS WITH THESE ITEMS

### Items denoted with \* are an immediate need

Band Aids	Gold Bond Crème	Non-perishable Snacks
Bandanas	Gold Bond Powder	Playing Cards*
Black Work Socks*	Hairbrush/Comb	Pocket-sized Notebooks
Body Wash/Soap	Hand Wipes	Pocket Calendars
Chapstick*	Handkerchiefs	Razors*
Chewing Gum/Hard Candy	Individually Wrapped Single Toothbrushes*	Shampoo/Conditioner
Cotton Swabs	Key Chains	Shaving Cream
Dental Floss	Lip Balm	Sewing Kit
Deodorant	Lotion	Texas Souvenirs
Earbuds/Headphones	Magnets	Tissues
Flashlights w/ Batteries	Mechanical Pencils / Pens	Washcloths*
Full-sized Toothpaste*	Nail Clippers	Word Search/Sudoku
	New Baseball Caps	We no longer collect recycled shoe-boxes for this project.
	New T-Shirts	

## MISSION COMMITTEE

**Volunteers Needed for SEARCH Scattered Site Lunch and Activity**—Join the mission committee on Friday, **November 15** to serve a meal and activity for SEARCH clients. 5 volunteers are needed from 10:45 AM to 12 PM. The lunch will be held at SEARCH Homeless Services' office, 2015 Congress St., Houston, TX 77002. Sign up to help in the Gathering Area at the mission table November 3rd and 10th or email [mission@saintphilip.net](mailto:mission@saintphilip.net) if you can help. RSVP to help by Sunday, **November 10**.

**Seafarer Christmas Box Wrapping at St. Philip**—On Sunday, December 8, from 10:30 - 11 AM in the Gathering Area, join us in wrapping the Seafarer boxes with Christmas paper. After church, the wrapping will continue in the Arts & Crafts room from 12 - 1 PM. Sign up in the Gathering Area at the mission table if you can help with the holiday service project.

**Volunteers Needed for PCHAS Angel Tree Program**—Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services is recruiting volunteers to sort and inventory all the Angel Tree gifts received. They have 3 time slots open right now. They need volunteers to help **December 10** (shifts 10 AM-1 PM and 1-4 PM) and December 11 (1 to 3 PM) The sorting and inventory will take place at PCHAS' Cypress office located at 10242 Greenhouse Road, #501. You can sign up to help by clicking [here](#). If you have family or friends that would like to help, please feel free to share this link with them.

**CCSC Jingle Bell Express Volunteer Opportunity**—St. Philip members are invited to distribute toys, books, and gift cards to clients on Saturday, **December 14**, first shift 8:45-11:30 AM. The Jingle Bell Express event will take place at Bellaire United Methodist Church (4417 Bellaire Blvd.). Sign up in the Gathering Area on Sundays in November and December, or email [mission@saintphilip.net](mailto:mission@saintphilip.net) if you can join us to spread Christmas cheer.

The 2024 Hurricane Season ends **November 30** the day before Advent begins. This means it is time to re-stock your hurricane supplies and recharge your phone and tablet rechargers. Stay prepared and pray for those impacted by recent hurricanes.

## ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP**—Agreeing that a focus on disinformation is timely and important in this year of election politics, the current study book is Barbara McQuade's *Attack from Within; how disinformation is sabotaging America*. This group meets by zoom on the first Monday night of each month, 7-8 PM. The next meeting is Monday, Dec. 2. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at [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 King at:

[keatan@saintphilip.net](mailto: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](mailto:john@saintphilip.net).

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **November 14** at 7:00 PM. We will discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. 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 AM. We will begin our 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](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women.

### **Thursday Evening Circle—November 7**

meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Dining Room. Sarah Victorian [sarah.m.0617@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.m.0617@gmail.com)

### **Monday Morning Saints—November 11**

meets 2nd Monday of each month at 10 AM in the Dining Room - Tricia Tolbert [phtolbert@gmail.com](mailto:phtolbert@gmail.com)

### **The Hallmark Circle—November 13**

meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM - contact Sue Shirley-Howard [sue@fluencyhouston.com](mailto:sue@fluencyhouston.com) for location

### **Sunday Circle—November 17**

meets 3rd Sunday of each month after worship in the Dining Room. Jan Meyer [jsmeyer9990@gmail.com](mailto:jsmeyer9990@gmail.com)

### **One More Chance Study for Everyone—November 24**

Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Library. Lee Ardell [lccardell@gmail.com](mailto:lccardell@gmail.com)



## MONTHLY MUSICAL MOMENT FOR NOVEMBER

### A 21st-century Requiem

This past weekend, St. Philip music program reached the culmination of months of preparation on a remarkable piece of music, Howard Goodall's "Eternal Light: A Requiem," which was the centerpiece of Sunday evening's All Saints concert.

"Eternal Light: A Requiem" was first commissioned by London Musici to celebrate its 20th anniversary as both a choral-orchestral-dance piece for London Musici, The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and Rambert Dance Company and as a choral-orchestral work. It received its world premiere in England in 2008 and the North American premiere just down the street at St. Luke's UMC.



Foundationally, the core concept Goodall wrestles with through his requiem is, what – in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – is a Requiem for, who is it for and what does it mean?

Most requiems are based, one way or another, on the medieval church's Mass for the Dead, which is made up of a series of movements beginning with the 'Kyrie Eleison' (Greek meaning Lord have mercy) and ending with 'In Paradisum' (Into paradise). Although the traditional requiem text calls for 'eternal peace, rest and light' for those who have died, it also emphasises judgement and everlasting damnation for anyone who transgresses the Roman Catholic Church's code of behaviour, as seen from the perspective of the Middle Ages. However, rather than the more traditional approach to the appalling pain of loss and grief, Goodall attempts to provide solace for the living that mourn. Much like Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, a familiar work that diverts from tradition by setting passages from the Lutheran Bible, Goodall has stripped down the old Latin texts to a few phrases in each movement and laid beside them words from poignant English poems from across the last 500 years.

Much like Brahms in the 19th century or fellow examples like Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living" (2013), Goodall strives to comfort the living.

Goodall summarizes his expressive intentions this way...

*I stripped the Latin text down to a handful of resonant phrases and went in search of poetry, some sacred, some secular, to shed new light on the various Requiem concepts – peace, everlasting light, grief, comfort, and – most controversial of all – faith in an afterlife. The purpose would be to reconfigure the words to underline a sense of solace for the grieving, compassion for the despairing and some attempt – however modest – at assisting in the process of recovery. There could be no glib reassurances about death being freedom, or a passage to a 'better place' but there could be a recognition that the departed do live on in the minds, hearts and memories of others, that the love that existed between them and others is unbroken by death and that the little we do know from those that have experienced near-death or heart-stopping events is that light is a powerful and universal sensation. To embrace a view of death as a passage towards light of some kind neither contradicts the teaching of the world's religions nor what we have been told from actual description, and – most importantly – it is what all those that have lost a loved one want to feel.*

*The music for Eternal Light: A Requiem flooded into my head in a great rush, confirming for me the suspicion that I had been nudging towards something addressing grief for some time. It had probably been triggered by a commission I completed in 2005 for the choir of King's School, Canterbury, in memory of a student, Lucy Holland, who died with members of her family in the Indian Ocean Tsunami. Nothing, absolutely nothing, can alleviate the suffering of losing a child, but perhaps some things – kindness in others, the refusal to forget, and even, in this instance, a piece of choral music sung by young people, could mark the passing of a precious life and honour it with dignity, compassion and beauty. I do not make any claims as composer for Eternal Light other than this: if my new Requiem can do that for one person or one family, somewhere, someday, it will have been worth writing. For me that is what a modern Requiem is for, who it is for and what it means.*

(contd)

The movement I've chosen for this month's musical moment is the music that drew me to the work and created the first desire to perform it. Here, Goodall pairs the familiar text *Lacrymosa dies illa* ("That day of tears"), a text that is most often associated with Mozart's famous setting, with poetry written by Mary Frye in the early 20th century.

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
 I am not there, I do not sleep.  
 I am a thousand winds that blow,  
 I am the softly falling snow.  
 I am the gentle showers of rain,  
 I am the fields of ripening grain.  
 I am in the morning hush,  
 I am in the graceful rush  
 Of far-off birds in circling flight.  
 I am the starshine of the night.

I am in every flower that blooms,  
 I am in still and empty rooms.  
 I am the child that yearns to sing,  
 I am in each lovely thing.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
 I am not there – I did not die.

- Mary Elizabeth Frye

It's striking that in just three out of seventy eight pages, Goodall accomplishes his own stated goal of a 21st century requiem beautifully. Flowing strings, perfect pacing, and stirring interaction between the baritone soloist and choir provide the perfect soundscape for the combined Latin and English text, both of which resonate as deeply together in this movement as either has independently over the centuries past.

You can watch the St. Philip choir's rehearsal performance from this weekend at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypyn898UHFY>

Eternal Light: A Requiem (2008): Lacrymosa: Do not stand at my grace and weep (Warner Classics):

<https://youtu.be/8iv4r8k-GxU?si=JVmBhjYGIBSIbX0t>

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

## SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES

Pledge Sunday—**November 17**

Stitchers Quilt Dedication—Sunday, **November 24**

Celebrate the beginning of the Advent season in the Gathering Area Sunday, **December 1** (Advent Sunday), starting at 10:45! Crafts, a hot chocolate bar, cookie exchange (bring some to swap), cookie decorating, and always-popular card signing for our homebound will fill the Gathering Area. Join us for a great start to the "most wonderful time of the year!"

Saturday, **December 7**—9 AM– 2PM—Advent VBS—Mary's Magnificent Song

Sunday, **December 8**—5 PM—Festival of Carols

Join us for an evening of seasonal favorites such as Benjamin Britten's timeless "Ceremony of Carols" for choir and harp, plus children's music, handbells, ukuleles, and more, including a carol sing-along!

**Wednesdays in December**, at 12 PM

Advent Meditations

Make sure to join us during Advent for a weekly offering of music and spoken word every Wednesday at noon. Each service will feature different Houston-area musicians with lunch available afterwards in the gathering area.

Wednesday, **December 4** — Ruslan Baiazitov, piano

Wednesday, **December 11** — Ingrid Gerling, violin & Andreea Muț, piano

Wednesday, **December 18** — Hope Cowan, harp

### 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 103

We are offering three cycles of 6-week classes from September-December to experiment with increased variety of topics, teachers, and formats in our Sunday School, as well as introducing new opportunities for youth to engage in mission and children to engage in music.

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BLUEY

OCTOBER 20 TO NOVEMBER 24

9:45 - 10:45 AM

ADULTS: RM 202, LED BY: JOHN WURSTER

GRADES 1-4: RM 204-205

LED BY: KEATAN KING & LIZ MIGUEZ



#### ALL AGES BEGIN BY MEETING IN ROOM 205

**YOUTH**—Grades 5-12—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 continuing with our study of Job in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Prophets and Ecclesiastes (2010)*. Join us from 9:30 – 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 when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to participate in this during the worship service.

**CHURCH & SOCIETY**—ROOM 201—Join us from **9:30 a.m.—10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. As part of a partnership with Rice University's "Humanities and Communities" Project, upper-level Ph.D. students will be presenting to Church & Society on timely topics in the next few weeks. **November 10** - Historical Development of International Interfaith Work in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities - We may be familiar with interfaith work in the United States and Europe, but what of the history of interfaith work on the African continent? In this presentation, we'll learn more about how interfaith relations have worked in the past, and what opportunities are possible in the future. Presented by Akpan Ubong-Abasi - Akpan Ubong-Abasi is a Ph.D. candidate in African/African American Religions in the Department of Religion, Rice University. He received his M.A in the Comparative Study of Religions (distinction) from Nigeria's premier university; the University of Ibadan, a PGD -Education from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria and B.A in Religious and Cultural Studies from the University of Calabar, Nigeria. Akpan's research interest is in the Comparative Study of Religions with keen attention to interaction of religions/interfaith relations, theorizing measures and paradigms toward addressing evolving tension between intra/inter faith traditions. His current research trajectory is in New Age/ New Religious Movements in African/African American Studies. **November 17** - Wisdom Literature Through African Eyes: Negotiating Identity and Relations in the Book of Proverbs—presented by Wenji Konyu Emmanuel - Ph.D. Candidate Student in the School of Humanities/Religion Department, Rice University - In the presentation, we will be taken on a journey through reading Scripture, specifically the Book of Proverbs, through the interpretive lens of African culture and theological approaches. This journey will illuminate how a less-understood approach to wisdom literature can open our eyes to the richness of the texts. Wenji Konyu Emmanuel is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Religion at Rice University. He is fascinated by the manner in which the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Bible intersects and informs African understandings of biblical texts. Wenji holds a B.Sc. degree in Geology from the University of Buea. He studied theology at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS) Kumba and obtained a bachelor's degree (B.Th) in 2004. In 2013 he completed a Master's degree from the PTS Kumba. From 2016- 2023 Wenji was appointed by the synod of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) to serve as chaplain and lecturer in the department of Biblical Studies at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS) Kumba. He has taught Biblical Hebrew and related courses in the Old Testament.

Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: [churchsociety\\_sphilip@comcast.net](mailto:churchsociety_sphilip@comcast.net).

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*St. Philipians and their families*—Roderick James; Susan Estill; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Karen Morris; 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; Faith Fugit – daughter of Joyce Fugit; Raquel Calhoun-sister-in-law of Pam Keverer; Jerry Isbell – son-in-law of Bill & Karen Morris; 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; Douglas Everhart – brother 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. Philipians* – Bill Ward—friend of Stephen Paine; Pete & Gloria Benevides, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, Carrie Prati & Concepcion (“Concha”) Estrada - friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Annette Covey—friend of Guy & Melissa Aldrich; 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; 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](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/>), 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](mailto:denise@saintphilip.net) or Lorrie Castle at [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto: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, November 19 - Deadline November 14—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



Instagram



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