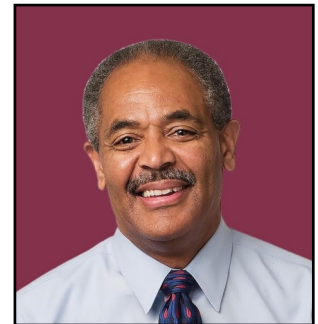




February 4, 2025
Volume 69, Issue 3

PHILIP-EYE

Duerr Lecture Series 2025



Known as an insightful biblical scholar and impactful preacher, our speaker for the 28th annual Duerr Lecture Series is Brian K. Blount, President Emeritus of Union Presbyterian Seminary and currently *Alonzo L. McDonald Chair in the Life and Teachings of Jesus and Their Impact on Culture* at Emory University, Candler School of Theology. Growing up in Smithfield, VA, Blount was nurtured in a home where education was emphasized. He responded by attending the College of William and Mary, where he received the B.A. degree in Religion and Psychology and was the first African-American to receive membership in the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Next Blount received the M.Div. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and then was called to be Pastor of Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, VA, where he served from 1982 - 1988. In 1992 Blount received the Ph.D. from Emory University in New Testament studies. After receiving his doctorate in 1992, Blount joined the faculty at Princeton Theological Seminary and served as the *Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation* until 2007, when he was called to be *President and Professor Of New Testament* at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC, serving there until his retirement in 2023.

Blount's primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation, and in cultural studies and hermeneutics. Sought after as lecturer, teacher, and preacher, Dr. Blount has published many articles and reviews and is sole author of six books including *Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Resurrection* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014) and *Commentary on Revelation* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009). Blount is married and has two adult children. He is an avid runner and in retirement he maintains a very active preaching and travel schedule.

In his lectures, "*The Kingdom of God*," Dr. Blount will discuss what difference it makes to talk about the Kingdom of God in today's world. How do various Christian groups understand the Kingdom? What does our belief about the Kingdom mean for our actions as people working in and for that Kingdom? What does it mean in our time to enter the Kingdom of God? After examining those questions we'll look at

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

how Jesus' understanding of God's Kingdom developed from the witness of the Hebrew Prophets. How does this prophetic understanding help us engage the Kingdom of God -- not as a safe space in which we go to be saved -- but as the rule of God that courses into our world and invites us to participate with it? In his concluding lecture, Blount will make the case that the Kingdom of God is a future reality that comes at the end of time yet is inserted into our human present in Jesus. We see that future in Jesus's life and ministry and represent that future as his disciples. Dr. Blount will preach on Sunday, February 23 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, and present lectures each evening, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

In its 28th year the Duerr Lecture Series continues to offer lectures both live and by live-streaming. Access to the worship service and lectures will be available on the website: www.saintphilip.net. A link will be found to register for in-person or online live-streaming. All lectures are free and open to all. Worship service is 11:00 a.m. CST, Feb. 23, lectures each evening, Feb. 23, 24, and 25, are at 7:00 pm. All lectures will be held in the Fellowship Hall at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, and will be archived for later viewing. For

specific questions about the series, please contact duerrlectureseries@gmail.com.

The lecture series was established in 1998 in memory of Chris Duerr, with the purpose of bringing the best Reformed scholars and preachers to St. Philip and the wider community each year. Duerr was born and raised in Germany, growing up during the years of World War II. He came to the U.S. in 1950 in the first class of Fulbright Scholars from Germany, studying at Michigan State University. He also studied at the University of Hamburg, Germany, where he received the equivalent of a Master's Degree in political economics. He moved permanently to the States in 1968, becoming a naturalized citizen in 1973. He joined St. Philip in 1979 and later served as a ruling elder.

The Lecture Series was established through generous contributions made in Duerr's memory. While the lectures are free and open to everyone, your gift to ensure the continuation of the series on an annual basis is greatly appreciated. Gifts may be made to the series in honor of or in memory of a friend or loved one. Gifts may be made by check or on the website: www.saintphilip.net.

FAIR TRADE YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY

Now's the time to surprise your sweetie with organic and fairly traded Valentine's chocolates you can both feel good about. Our Valentine's Day sale will also supply you with all the coffees, teas, and olive oil you ♥. Just stop by the Gathering Area before or after worship Sunday, **February 9**. We accept cash (exact change appreciated!), checks, credit/debit cards, or online payment via MyStPhilip as you help support small farmers in earning a living wage through Equal Exchange's co-op system. Your purchases support a system that allows farmers and their families to remain in and improve their communities in their home countries. (Lemon ginger chocolate bars are unavailable.)



PURCHASES SUPPORT
A SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS
FARMERS & THEIR FAMILIES
TO REMAIN IN & IMPROVE
THEIR COMMUNITIES
IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.

Valentine's Chocolate



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:30 TO 11 AM & 12 TO 12:30 PM

[IN THE **GATHERING AREA**]

ALSO FOR SALE:

COFFEES, TEAS, & OLIVE OIL

VISIT: **SAINTPHILIP.NET**

"AGONY...SORT OF"

Along with shows like *West Side Story*, *Su*, and others, "Into the Woods" is one of Stephen Sondheim's greatest works. From start to finish, Sondheim carefully and cleverly weaves underlying complex themes – infidelity, vanity, and parenting, to name a few– into a combination of innocent fairy tales like Jack & the Beanstalk, Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Little Red Riding Hood, which are all tied together by the story of a baker and his wife's journey to have a child. Sondheim's use of fairy tales, which are normally lofty tellings of moral lessons, to demonstrate more real life struggles shows his brilliance and effectiveness as a story-teller.



No characters display vanity better than the two princes of Cinderella and Rapunzel, who Sondheim also uses to poke fun at some ridiculous or morally problematic of these old stories, yielding one of the best parts of the show. "Agony" finds our two princes lamenting their newly found, yet currently unattainable lost maidens, with Cinderella running away and Rapunzel being locked in a tower. Each prince is caught in their own fantasy of narcissism, but also claims to be suffering much more than the other, quickly turning the song into a multi-layer sibling rivalry of who is suffering most. After a relatively normal first verse and refrain by Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince sings his verse, followed by an altered refrain, "Agony! Far more painful than yours..."

If you'd like to hear this song live, join us at our "Songs & Fragments" recital this Sunday February 9 at 5pm, where the two princes will be making a guest appearance in our sanctuary! For now, enjoy this version from the 2014 film adaptation of "Into the Woods," featuring Chris Pine and Billy Magnussen.

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

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

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP

SONGS & FRAGMENTS

Sunday, February 9 | 5 pm

A recital featuring the St. Philip music staff

Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church
4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | saintphilip.net

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip



Come see the wonderful St. Philip music staff perform an eclectic program comprised of selections taken from larger works of musical theater, opera, art song cycles, and more! All proceeds benefit the St. Philip music ministry and the Music at St. Philip (MASP) concert series.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation will be on Sunday, **February 9**, immediately following the 11 am worship service. The meeting will include consideration of changes to the pastors' terms of call and the election of an elder to serve on the Session in the class of 2027. The congregational nominating committee will nominate Lee Ardell for that position. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

Kids Against Hunger® PACKING SESSIONS



THE NEXT PACKING SESSION IS:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
9:30 - 10:30 AM, IN THE DINING ROOM

SPOTS ARE LIMITED!
 EMAIL KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

UPCOMING PACKING SESSIONS:
SUNDAY, MARCH 23 AT 9:30-10:30 AM
SUNDAY, APRIL 13 AT 9:30-10:30 AM

HOSTS NEEDED! - SOMERVILLE COLLEGE CHOIR

Music at St. Philip is excited to host the Somerville College Choir from Oxford, England as our choir-in-residence the weekend of **March 22-24**, when they will be performing a concert on Sunday, **March 23** at 3 PM, and will act as our guest choir for the 11 AM worship service that morning. We are thrilled to host this wonderful ensemble, directed by William Dawes, on the first stop of their U.S. tour where they will also sing in Tyler, TX followed by several venues in New York City.

To offset the choir's cost, we are in need of hosts for about 15-20 of these student musicians while they are in town. Responsibilities would include hosting them for two nights (Saturday, **March 22** and Sunday, **March 23**) and transportation to and from St. Philip each day. They will also need a ride to St. Philip once more on Monday, **March 24** morning to catch their bus, which departs at 9 AM.

If you are willing to help out, know someone who is, or have any questions whatsoever, please reach out to Justin (justin@saintphilip.net) at your earliest convenience!"

— ST. PHILIP'S MUSIC MINISTRY —

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 9 TO APRIL 13
 9 TO 9:40 AM, SANCTUARY
 FOR AGES 5 THROUGH 5TH GRADE
 Singing, Movement, Percussion, & More!

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.

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 who want to be added to our zoom mailing list can contact Sara Jean Jackson (sjj10223@gmail.com).

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

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— 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 **February 13** at 7:00 PM. It will be a social, watch your email for details of location. 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.

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

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-4—Room 205—Beginning **February 9**, the elementary-aged children are invited to participate in *Mini-Revolution*s, a lectionary-based curriculum employing multiple modes of learning engagement, and centered on activities and practices to help build spiritual habits. Room 205.

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—Dining Room—Kids Against Hunger 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 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.

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 AM—10:40 AM with presentations in person and by Zoom. **February 9 - The Good Of This Life: Augustine and Postmodernism**—Presented by Zachary Schwarze- PhD Student in the 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. Fra Angelico, *The Conversion of St. Augustine*, 1430 *Cherbourg, Museum of Fine Arts, Thomas-Henry* "I sobbed out my pitiful cries: How long? How long must it be 'tomorrow' and 'tomorrow'? Why not 'now'? Why not an end to my degradation from this very moment?" (Augustine, *Confessions* VIII.xii (28) In the world of postmodern philosophy, the "return to antiquity" refers to the uptake of ancient authors and texts—including those from pre-Christian Greece and Rome as well as biblical and patristic ones—as new sites of ethical possibility in times of acute pain and suffering. In this spirit, the talk will give attendees a brief historical primer on the life and work of Augustine of Hippo (354-430 CE) and then show how Augustinian theology and rhetoric remind one, through philosophy and art in the wake of postmodernism, that suffering can end and that this life can be good. Zach Schwarze is a PhD student in the Department of Religion at Rice University. His research interests lie at the intersection of religious studies and art history, with special attention to the bearing of Christian theology on the interpretation of modern Mexican painting. **February 16 - Rest and Renewal - Sabbath in Many Forms**—Associate Pastor Omar Rouchon took a three-month sabbatical last fall. He will share with us an outline of his travels and endeavors, tales from the journey, and reflections and insights he gained along the way. Omar will also invite us to consider ways to engage in sabbath practices on a regular basis. **February 24 - Texas Impact - People of Faith Working for Justice** Texas Impact equips faith leaders and their congregations

gations with the information, opportunities, and outreach tools to educate their communities and engage with lawmakers on pressing public policy issues - to help people live out their faith in the public square. While the Texas legislature is in session, this presentation focuses on the issues of climate justice, economic justice, human rights, and civic engagement. Presented by Rebecca McIlwain - Project Manager, Houston Faith Votes - a program of Texas Impact. **March 2** - St. Philip Mission Partner—Bethesda Clinic, Moises Saenz Educational Center and Yucatan University—In this presentation we will learn about the long history of the relationship between the Estrella family and Central/St. Philip Presbyterian Church, to work with this Mission Partner to serve the people of the Yucatan through the Presbyterian Church, with health care at the Bethesda Clinic, and educational opportunities at Moises Saenz Educational Center and Yucatan University. Presented by Rev. Pablo Estrella - Pastor at Fuente de Gracia—Merida. If you would like to join any of the classes, send an email to churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.



March Birthdays—2025		
Tristan	Newport	3
Brian	Webster	3
William	Wilson	4
John	Bonica	6
Amy	Frautschi	6
Craig	Hill	6
Joseph	Harwood	7
Tom	Anderson	8
Joshua	Langham	9
Justin	Langham	9
Susan	Leonardson	9
Christopher	Newport	10
Leonardo	Stevenson	12
Bennett	Pepi	14
Cohen	Carlin	15
Marcia	James	15
Kathryn	Burkart	16
Nancy Everhart	Johnson	16
Melissa	Aldrich	17
Jennifer	Flowers	17
Robert	Ardell	18
Krystal	Davis	18
Daniel	Flowers	18
Susan	Huffman	20
Isabella	Ford	24
Sadie	Fair	25
James	Lewis	25
Emily	Estill	26
Paxton	Lambright	26
Susan	Mitchell	28
Jacqueline	Taylor	28
Sherri	Dees	29
Linda	Ewing	29
Jane	Lee	30
Priscilla	Angly	31

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Thursday Evening Circle—February 6

meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Dining Room.

Sarah Victorian sarah.m.0617@gmail.com

Monday Morning Saints—February 10

meets 2nd Monday of each month at 10 AM in the Dining Room -

Tricia Tolbert phtolbert@gmail.com

The Hallmark Circle

meets 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:30 PM - contact Sue Shirley-Howard

sue@fluencyhouston.com for location

Sunday Circle—February 23 (temporary change)

meets 3rd Sunday of each month after worship in the Dining Room.

Jan Meyer jsmeyer9990@gmail.com

One More Chance Study for Everyone—Feb. 23

Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Library. We'll be talking about

Air Quality - God's breath of life to creation (Lesson 4 from "Let Justice Roll

Down"). Everyone is welcome.

Lee Ardell leardell@gmail.com

FEBRUARY
ST. PHILIP COMMUNION OFFERING

CCSC
Christian
Community
Service
Center

**HELPING HOUSTON FAMILIES
MOVE FORWARD**
THROUGH IMMEDIATE BASIC NEEDS RELIEF
AND LONG-TERM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ST. PHILIP MEMBERS AT A 2024 CCSC FOOD FAIR

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sue Shirley Howard upon the death of her husband Dick Howard on January 17. A memorial service will be held on February 7 at 11:00 am.

Ken and Mickey Meyers upon the death of wife and mother Mickey Meyers on February 1. A memorial service will be held on February 11 at 11:00 a.m.

Charlotte Kibler and the Boone family upon the death of Dewey Kibler, husband, father and grandfather, who died on January 30. A memorial service will be determined at a later date.

St. Philippians and their families—Susan Lange; Jan Fox; Mickey Meyers; Vada Woodall; Russel Bahruth; Jeremy Mattern; 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; John & Raquel Calhoun – brother and sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Terese Murphy- cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck 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 – Erin McDougal, Jacqueline Hazrum & Matias Hazrum—friends of Kate Burkart; Brenda Paulk – friend of Bonnie Moore; Ann Eustler & Janet Rowlands – friends of Mary McGuire; Audrey Eubank Harris, Pete & Gloria Benevides, 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; 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.

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:
Tuesday, March 4 - Deadline February 27—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



Instagram



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net