

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Justin LanghamDirector of Music

Dr. Matthew DirstOrganist

Diana Weiss
Interim Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle

Office Manager Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill

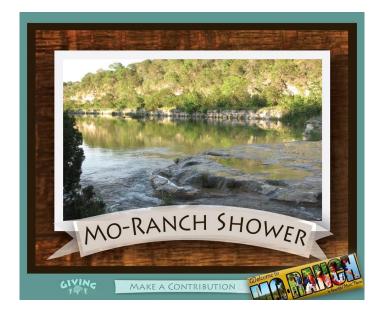
Editor Emerita



May 7, 2024

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PHILIP-EYE



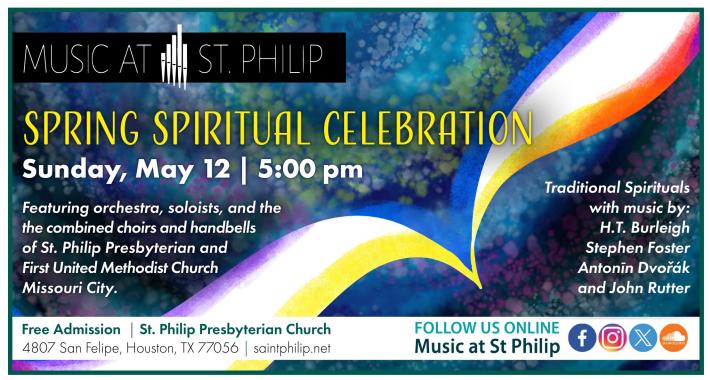
It is a St Philip tradition to gather funds to assist the housekeeping staff at Mo-Ranch with their work. Each year during the retreat, we present this "Mo Shower" gift as a tangible sign of the congregation's care and support for the ranch.

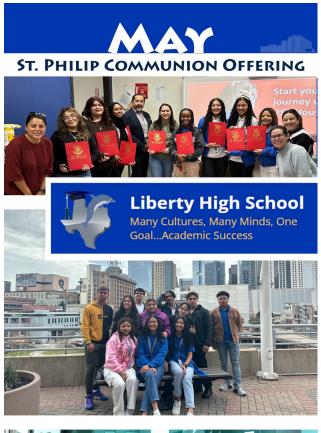
This year's "Mo-Shower" will help Mo-Ranch build a new laundry services facility.

The new building will provide space for additional machines to make caring for the ranch's laundry needs more efficient and more manageable for the staff. The new building will have:

- closer proximity to the hotel-style rooms
- more storage for fresh linens, allowing for efficient change-over of rooms
- in-door break room accommodations (currently, staff have no air-conditioning in the laundry facility and so sit outside for breaks and lunch)

Please consider donating to this gift in support of Mo-Ranch. Anyone may donate to the fund by going to the <u>saintphilip.net</u> homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting *MO SHOWER / Gifts* as the fund. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). You may also contribute by writing a check with *MO Shower* in the memo line and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office.









During the month of May, St. Philip also collects a special Pentecost Offering which helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also addresses the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering collected during the month of May will be retained for Liberty High School graduating senior activities to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own Houston community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency PC(USA).

investing in our greatest resource

Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The congregation is being asked to submit recommendations for persons to serve as Ruling Elders (Session), Trustees, and on the Central Mission Endowment Council.

We ask that the congregation wrap this process in prayer. Take some time to pray over the names in the church directory. Who do you believe exhibits spiritual leadership to take St. Philip to the next step? Who has a contagious passion for God? Who might enlarge our vision, empower our members, and embrace a bit of risk? How about you?

Thank you for your help! Your 2024 Nominating Committee:

Laura Burgess (chair), Selena Brinegar, Jane Lee, Mickey Meyers, Dick Nunn, and Gay Van Osdall.

To suggest a candidate, please provide the candidate's name and your name in case we have questions. **Self-nominations are welcome.** In making recommendations, please elaborate on personal qualities, involvement in our church, and why you consider this person a good candidate for church leadership. Please use a separate form for each recommendation. If you are recommending a Ruling Elder, please indicate the ministry area(s) you think they would best serve: Education; Finance; Mission;



LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

Peacemaking & Social Justice; Personnel; Property; Stewardship; Welcome & Membership; or Worship & Music

The digital form is available at: https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/cb0FTE0I8JuCY5z or by scanning the QR code.

RULING ELDER

In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities for leading the congregation, those who undertake the ministry of Ruling Elder should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. As members of the Session, they are responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation and for oversight of all the programs and ministries of St. Philip.

Currently serving as Elders:

Class of 2024 - Melissa Aldrich, Beth Atkinson, Walker Fair, Angelina Fonseca, Nancy Higgs, Susan Leonard, Jon Martin.

Class of 2025 - Dan Boston, Laura Burgess, Maggie Dement, William Howard, Mary Thornton McGuire, Gary Whitney, Nancy Beck Young.

Class of 2026 – Selena Brinegar, Kate Burkart, David Castro, Ada Fuller, Kurt Grether, John Hartman, and Mickey Meyers.

TRUSTEE

The duties of the trustees are to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property on behalf of the congregation; and to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the congregation.

Currently serving as Trustees are David Castle, John Van Osdall, and Casey Lambright.

CENTRAL MISSION ENDOWMENT COUNCIL

Members of the council decide the disbursements of the Central Mission Endowment Fund (CMEF). Persons serving on the council should be interested in mission outreach with available time for site visits.

Currently serving on the council are Bob Ardell, David Castro (Mission Committee Rep), Maggie Dement (Session Rep), Dick Howard, Roderick James, Cathy Patterson, Peg Palisin, Jeanette Wennenweser, and Jennifer Wilson.



The Stewardship Committee thanks all St. Philippians and friends who have made and continue to make financial contributions to support the life and ministries of the church. As a reminder, only St. Philip's bookkeeper has knowledge of the specifics of financial donations.



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. May 12—Few people today know that centuries ago, several churches in Europe installed into their stone floors lines to mark the passage of the sun through the course of a year. Why was that done? And why did that practice decline? This presentation will answer those questions, revealing how Christianity and science have at times been deeply intertwined and mutually supportive. It will also explain the theological assumptions underlying those lines in sanctuary floors, as well as the enduring Christian meanings discerned in the regular course of the sun. - Presented by Bruce Yaeger - Teacher and lecturer at churches for thirty-five years and author of Wrestling Brothers: Rethinking Religion-Science Relationships, and Spirited Bodies Beneath the Stars: Science & Spirituality Together. May 19 - The Big Thicket National Preserve in East Texas - A Convergence of Ecosystems - Life of all types abounds in the Big Thicket. This national preserve protects the incredible diversity of life found where multiple habitats meet in southeast Texas. Hiking trails and waterways meander through nine different ecosystems, from longleaf pine forests to cypress-lined bayous. It is a place of discovery, a place to wander and explore, a place to marvel at the richness of nature. Presented by Sandra Ramos - Texas Coastal Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association and National Park Geek Ambassador .Email Mickey Meyers if you would like join via zoom any of the classes: churchsociety stphilip@comcast.net.

FAITH & LIFE – Room 200—An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—We are studying Job in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Prophets and Ecclesiastes* (2010). 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.

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 **May 9** at 7:00 p.m. This will be a social gathering at The 401 (6700 Ferris St., Bellaire, 77401). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOW-SHIP—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 group meets on first Monday nights 7-8 p.m., by zoom, to discuss social justice issues of the day. Of current interest is the growing awareness of the effect of Christian Nationalism on our country's social policies. This "ism" has been defined as a concept that is exploiting Christian principles for political purposes." Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson to be added to our mailing list.

(sji10223@gmail.com)



MISSION COMMITTEE

PLANT IT FORWARD FARM DAY

On Saturday, April 13, Cathy Patterson, Paul Arlinghaus, Jenny Towns and Angelina Fonseca-Grewal joined a large group of about 25 volunteers to move bags of leaves with wheelbarrows to the farm rows of vegetables and surround the rows with the leaves. This natural mulch helps the vegetables grow by nourishing the soil. Volunteers also



helped mission partner Plant It Forward by moving the trash bags filled with leaves closer to the farm field. These large, heavy bags are dumped on the Plant It Forward farm by landscaping crews that clean residents' yards of the leaves. Cathy Patterson and Angelina Fonseca-Grewal spoke with one of the farmers from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She sells the vegetables at local farmers' markets. The Fondren farm location has a total of three different farmers growing vegetables on the plot of land. Future community service days will resume in October 2024. Dates and locations of these community service days are posted on their website at https://plantitforward.farm/fieldnotes/# events. St. Philip members are invited to serve on the farms this fall.

CCSC FUNDRAISING GALA RAISES OVER \$865,000 TOWARD ITS 13 PROGRAMS



On Wednesday, April 17, Skip Britton, Jan Meyer, Marcia James, Anne & Butch Wilson, Dan and Betsy Boston, Omar Rouchon, John Wurster, Deb Burks, Robert & Susan Estill, and Gage Grewal & Angelina Fonseca-Grewal attended the

CCSC Azalea Gala to support CCSC's impact in the Houston community. With over 750 supporters in attendance, over \$865,000 was raised to support operational costs for Food Pantry & Clothing, Utility Bill & Rental Assistance, Workforce Development which includes JobNet, job coaching, Home Caregiver Training Program, and Martha's Way home cleaning training

program; and Youth Services including Jingle Bell Express, Back to School and the Louise J. Moran Vision Care Program. The fundraising dinner was hosted by KHOU News presenter Shern-Min Chow and the community honoree was Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Throughout the month of June 2024,



St. Philip mission committee will be hosting a nonperishable food drive to supplement the fresh vegetables that our church community garden provides to the CCSC pantry. There is a greater need during the summer months from families with children living at home necause they are not eating breakfast and lunch at school. Thank you to the St. Philip congregation for supporting CCSC's impact in the Houston community.

PCHAS FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAMS' LIFE CHANGING IMPACT



On Thursday, April 18, Olga and Tom Lewis, Sue Howard, Jane Larkin, John Wurster, Angelina Fonseca-Grewal, Diana Weiss, and table hostess Mary McGuire, attended the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services Spring Luncheon. A PCHAS foster mother shared her story of serving as a foster parent and eventually adopting a second set of

foster siblings her family welcomed into their lives. Another PCHAS mother shared her story of receiving housing assistance and job training and financial planning training. She went on to become a successful business owner and now is promoting her own brand of sunglasses and other major brands' products on social media. PCHAS also came to St. Philip on Sunday, April 28 to present all of PCHAS' programs and answer questions about the foster parent selection process and preparation to become a foster parent. Thank you to the St. Philip congregation for supporting Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PRACTICE, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Friday, March 12, Angelina Fonseca-Grewal met with graduation coordinator Patsy Pina at Liberty High School. Angelina learned ways that St. Philip can support the students and staff this year. Graduation rehearsal volunteers are needed, 2-3 people to assist with marking the graduation area layout and guiding students to and from their seats. Liberty High School will be having their graduation rehearsal on June 1, 2024 from 9 am - 12 pm on the campus located at 5407 Gulfton St. If you are not going to the church retreat at Mo-Ranch, please consider volunteering to help the students prepare to graduate. Sign up in the gathering area on Sundays during May or email mission@saintphilip.net if you can volunteer.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION GIFT DONATION DRIVE

To supplement the May communion offering, St. Philip Mission committee will hold a donation drive through **June 2.** The graduation gifts of school supplies will be delivered Monday, June 3 in time for graduation. Gently

used supplies or new supplies can be dropped off at the church gathering area on Sundays or dropped off at the church office. Liberty High School students will be blessed to receive tangible support in this way, helping future college students feel prepared to start the next educational chapter of their lives. Shopping lists are available for pick up at the Mission table in the Gathering Area. Items include: backpacks, lined notebooks, pens, pencils, calculators, highlighters, sticky notes, water bottles, travel coffee mugs, white-out, index cards, planners, 3-ring binders, tabbed dividers, clear sheet protectors, sharpies, dry erase markers, pocket mirror, pencil box/case, and pocket folders. Graduation coordinator Patsy Pina has prepared a Registry of graduation school supplies if you wish to contribute by purchasing the supplies online and they will be shipped directly to the high school graduation coordinator. https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/ guest-view/3OR6AXNQ6AKCK

MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION PRESENTS PLAQUE TO ST. PHILIP RECOGNIZING 30 YEAR PARTNERSHIP

On Sunday, April 21, Medical Benevolence Foundation



(MBF) Chief Medical Officer Dr. Douglas L u n g u a n d Development Officer for the West Region Tina Pugal presented MBF's impact and goals for the next decade. Over the past few decades, there are

fewer missionaries serving in the field, but MBF is partnering with organizations like Project Cure, USAID and Samaritan Purse to bring in only the needed medical supplies hospitals and clinics are lacking. Each facility must have a fully equipped theatre and a nursing group to perform surgeries. In Malawi there are only 70 - 100 practicing surgeons for 20 million people, so MBF is leveraging the medical properties in the rural areas, so that clinics work together and are sustainable as a support network. MBF is teaching local medical providers how to implement a sustainable business model while providing the same quality of care to all. As well as providing medical care, the network of clinics exists as a ministry of the church, staffed with a spiritual director at the hospitals and clinics. Dr. Lungu also shared with us how five faculty members came from different countries to establish the surgical residency program in Malawi. Dr. Beth Stuebing Adams has a Facebook page where you can follow her work and teaching at the surgical residency program in Lilongwe, Malawi. For the future, MBF wants to grow the hospital networks in 10 other sub-Saharan African countries by working with established churches on the ground. Overall, the goal of MBF is to train locals in nursing and surgery so that the population becomes selfsufficient, and children can see their parents achieving medical professions so that one day the children can go to school and work in a similar or different field. At the end of the Sunday school class presentation, MBF presented the St. Philip congregation with a plaque recognizing the 30-year partnership St. Philip has had with MBF, contributing time and resources to furthering MBF's impact in Malawi, Haiti, and other countries. Thank you to the St. Philip congregation for supporting MBF with annual mission grants.

JUNE 1 OPERATION IMPACT UPDATE, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Philip congregation is invited to volunteer with mission partner Interfaith Ministries on June 1 or June 8. We will only be delivering meal boxes. No heavy bottled water packs. Supplies and a list of homebound residents' addresses will be distributed at 9:00 a.m. By the time we deliver and return to the Interfaith Ministries Midtown location to return your route sheet and any undelivered items, we will be finished by 10:30/10:45 a.m. We are not meeting at the St. Philip church this year. All distribution for June 1 will be from the Midtown location at 3202 San Jacinto. If June 8 is a better date for you to volunteer, we still very much need folks to help in Mainland Galveston County. Pick-up will be at the La Marque location at 216 Byrd St., and deliveries will be to towns like Bacliff, Santa Fe, Texas City, La Marque, etc. Sign up in the Gathering Area to volunteer for either Saturday, June 1 or 8 or email mission@saintphilip.net. You can register directly on the website at Operation Impact - Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (imgh.org).

VOLUNTEERS HELP NEWSPRING RAISE FUNDS FOR STUDENTS AT ART AUCTION

On May 1, volunteers Beth Atkinson and Diana Weiss set up the student artwork for the art auction held at Spring



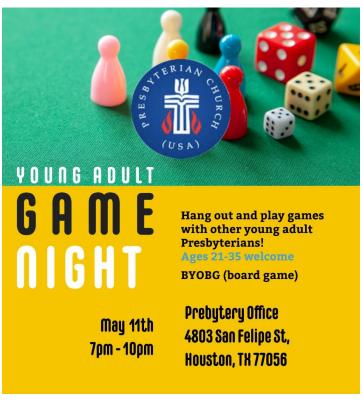
Street Studios and volunteered during the event, benefitting mission partner NewSpring. During the silent auction, Mary McGuire sold raffle tickets. Angelina Fonseca-Grewal and Gage Grewal attended the art auction and spoke with students about their art and how they made it and what inspired them. St. Philip supports the Spring Branch area children who

attend the NewSpring after school and summer programs. NewSpring is working to shape the future of Houston by helping our youth build the competencies needed to thrive in the 21st century economy. Our program CREATES – Creating Real-life Experiences through Art, Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Scholarship – is led in the Spring Branch region of Houston, where NewSpring was founded and is currently based. NewSpring delivers a coherent set of programs for elementary, middle, and high school-aged students living in underserved communities where



resources and opportunities are limited. The sale of the artwork will fund events like field trips to NASA, Cullen Sculpture Garden, The Children's Museum Houston, and Rice University Mood Center for the Arts.





Getting to the Good Part: Weaving Community in Christ

Luke 10:38-42

A conference for women to come together, build relationships, worship and do fun activities

Keynote Speaker:

The Rev. Keatan King

June 7-9

As people of faith, we have opportunities to mark these liminal spaces by recognizing that God is with us on the journey, giving us grace. We will spend the weekend reflecting on God's presence in all the times of our lives – and in the midst of singing, prayer, worship, keynotes, workshops, and rest, we will mark those times and places of grace in our lives.



Each year, hundreds of women from across the region gather together for the **Mo-Ranch Women's Conference**. Take a break from the busyness of life to recharge physically, mentally and spiritually. Conference activities include keynote presentations, worship, fellowship, recreation, free time and workshops.

- Create an inviting and safe environment for growth and renewal
- Hear God's word through inclusive and intentional worship
- Reach a diverse cross-section of women by culture, age and background
- Celebrate and be good stewards of God's creation
- Practice inclusiveness, radical hospitality and joyful fellowship
- Allow a place to reconnect with ourselves, God and each other

Mothers, daughters and granddaughters come together for a time of reunion and growth. Friendships that last a lifetime are made by women who would not have otherwise met. For more information and to register go to:

https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/adult-conferences/womens-conference/

MUSIC AT M ST. PHILIP

2024 **SUMMER ORGAN SERIES**



Sunday June 9 | 3:00 pm Grant Smith, organist



Sunday June 30 | 3:00 pm Ben Kerswell, organist



Sunday July 21 | 3:00 pm Grace Roman, soprano Jim Roman, organist



Sunday August 25 | 3:00 pm Deux Voix | Justin Langham, trumpet Stephen Distad, organ

FOLLOW US ONLINE Music at St Philip









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

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Ralph Cherillo; Susan Mitchell; Karen Morris; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Peg Palisin; Mary Herlitz; Helen Deleon; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Mark Takayama; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Terese Murphy- cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Alice Woodall-Chisholm – cousin of Mary McGuire; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart 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 Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians— Jennifer Schenk and Amy Syres from Second Mile Haiti - friends of the Church & Society Class; Barbara Goodson from Have Shears-Will Travel - friend of the Church & Society Class; Paul Feagan – friend of Jacqui Colton; 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; Jacqueline Hazrum, Erin McDougal, and Eric Alberto Marquez – friends 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

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.

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!

Next edition: Tuesday, May 21; Deadline May 16—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.

























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