



St. Philip Newsletter

September 2022

St. Philip Presbyterian Church

www.stphil.org

(817) 282-9181

Rev. Dr. Greg Garis, Pastor

“To be a welcoming and growing church, as we share God’s love in the community and meet the spiritual needs of our members. Together we embrace the truth that in God there is no inequality among people.”

Many blessings to all of you,

Thank you to all of you who have challenged, supported, studied with, and worked with me throughout the past eight years. I am grateful that God does a new thing all the time. I am confident that God is doing a new thing now. I am grateful for shared experiences of God’s amazing grace. The highlights of ministry at St. Philip center around the relationships that we have built together. I was taught in seminary that it is important to say our goodbyes. Goodbye to each of you. May you see God’s wonder and delight in it in the years to come. Part of saying goodbye means being sure that you are aware of how our relationships will change going forward.

The book of order states that “after the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, former pastors and associate pastors shall not provide their pastoral services to members of their former congregations without the invitation of the moderator of session.”

This means that Greg is the one to call when you need to talk, when you have a crisis, when you are in the hospital, and when you have a question about the life of the church. In order to separate in a healthy way, I plan to unfollow church members on social media and refer people to Greg if you reach out by cell phone. The boundaries between friendships and providing pastoral support are difficult. Some space and time will allow for clear boundaries going forward. You will not hear from me by phone, email, or social media. This will allow you to bond to the pastoral support you continue to have at St. Philip.

Going forward, you won’t see me or my family at church events, and anything you would like me to participate in would need to go through the session moderator (Greg Garis). Please know that I care for you deeply. You remain in my prayers, and I truly wish the best for this congregation. If in a year or so you would like to reach out socially, please feel free to do so. Of course, it is a small Presbyterian world. If we see each other at Presbytery events, around town, or at other events, we can exchange a hug, handshake, or high-five, and be glad for relationships built over time. God has a way of bringing us together in new and unexpected ways. As a family of Christ, we all work together to participate in what God is doing in the world, even when we are unaware of each other’s actions.

May God Bless you and keep you,
Rev. Alissa Conner

On Sunday, August 21, during the worship service, a special litany was said together in the Sanctuary saying farewell to the Rev. Alissa Conner. Alissa has served as Associate Pastor for over 8 years and has left St. Philip to pursue the next thing God is calling her to do.

After the Worship service, members met in the Youth Hall to say good by to Alissa. Refreshments were organized by the Session members and Alissa was presented a beautiful hand painted picture of St. Philip, which church member and artist Joe Laehr painted. Rev. Garis also presented Alissa and her family some books. For Wyatt, a baptism book was given. Alissa’s husband Jay was given a parenting book focusing on dads, and Alissa was presented with a book titled, “The Life of Meaning.” Several members and staff shared some of Alissa’s meaningful ministry and how she had nurtured them.

We will miss Alissa and wish her and her family God’s blessings.



Books for St. Phil Book Group 2022-2023
 June 2022 — January 2023
 We meet the 4th Tuesday at 1:15 in the church library
 (except Nov. 5th Tuesday, and no meeting in December)

June 28	<u>West with Giraffes</u> by Lynda Rutledge Stephenson
July 26	<u>The Other Einstein</u> by Marie Benedict (aka Heather Benedict Terrell)
Aug. 23	<u>Songbirds</u> by Christy Lefteri
Sept. 27	<u>800 Grapes</u> by Laura Dave
Oct. 25	<u>The Rent Collector</u> by Cameron Wright
Nov. 29	<u>When the Men Are Gone</u> by Marjorie H. Lewis
Jan. 24 (2023)	<u>The Last Thing He Told Me</u> by Laura Dave



Sept. 6	PW Board Meeting	10:00 a.m.	Library
Sept. 13	Joint Circle/Sheila Bradley/Grace	10:00 a.m.	Library
Sept. 20	Fellowship Lunch	11:30 a.m.	Abuelos
Sept. 27	Mission	To be Determined	



**Transition to 3-digit
 Dialing Code for 988
 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
 Launched on July 16, 2022**

On July 16, 2022, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline—formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline—transitioned from its previous ten-digit phone number to the 988 dialing code.

For additional information, click [here](#).



Mariners

Don't forget Mariners on Saturday, September 17th, at 7 pm in Room 5 across from the Preschool office. We will be playing Mexican Train! Call the Boyds for more information (252-943-1608).



**1st and 3rd Wednesday
 of the month.**
 September 7th and 21st, 8:30 a.m.
 In the Narthex

All men of the church and visitors are welcome.
 No age limits or requirements.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP!
 Donuts will be provided. Bring your own coffee.

***Did you know that SPPC is an
 approved recipient of donations from
 Amazon Smile?***

If you shop on Amazon, as you check out, it's so easy to identify St. Philip Hurst (to be distinguished from St. Philip Presbyterian in Houston) as a charity! It costs nothing, and so is a painless way to direct a few dollars to our church. If you don't know how to participate in Amazon Smile, just type "Amazon Smile" into the prompt box on the Amazon shopping site. Easy breezy.



Attention Slackers
 (All men of the church)
 September 8th at 12:00 noon.

Lunch at Ernie's Seafood restaurant (8206 Bedford Eules Rd., North Richland Hills, TX 76180) on the 2nd Thursday of each month. No formal meeting just good fellowship.



We have options!

Two classes, *Seekers* and *Alpha*, that meet each Sunday morning.

The *Seekers* class meets in the Library from 9:15 – 10:15. It is led by Cathy Shoop, and the material studied is “Imaging the Word,” a lectionary-based material that uses art, music and literature in combination with each week’s scriptures.

The *Alpha* class meets in CE Room 5 and is a combination Zoom and in-person class. Currently the lessons pertain to “Moses, The Reluctant Prophet.” This class has social time from 9:00 – 9:15 and the lesson from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. The Zoom link is available through Donna Jowell at (817-343-5032) or leave a message at the church office (817-282-9181).



**NEED COLLECTION =
First Sunday
September 4th**

Thanks to St. Philip, they have toilet paper! They are **totally out of the following:** Oil, flour, mustard, mayo and ketchup. Canned ravioli, spaghetti, Hamburger helper, instant potatoes, cornbread mix, cereal, pancake mix, syrup and or jelly. They do have plenty of mac and cheese but no plain noodles and, as always, they need personal hygiene items.

Can’t attend church on First Sunday? Not a problem, you can drop off your donation in the **NEED Bin** located by the East door (across from the elevator) any time you are in the church building. We will make sure your items are delivered!

THANK YOU for your continuous support of this mission. If you prefer, checks can be written to St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Please note the word **NEED** in the memo area and remember, all donations are tax deductible.



ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Hours are 8:30 a.m.— 2:30 p.m. Extended hours (an additional fee): 7:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m. Please contact Kimberly Johnson at 817-282-0557 to register and for additional information.



CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL /NURSERY

All children in grades K-5 are invited to attend Sunday School in Room 8 every Sunday morning at 9:15am. Senior High Youth meet each Sunday morning in the Youth Hall. Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors, or friends! If you have a child 2-4 years old or a Junior High Student who wants to attend Sunday School, please call the Church Office (817-944-4549) or contact Ruth Lucas (817-480-6178).

We are ready to begin those classes as needed.
Our Nursery meets in Room 3 and is provided every Sunday morning during worship.
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ruth Lucas (817-480-6178).

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Peter Nelson ... Myrtle Quattlebaum.
CONTINUE IN PRAYER: Jeff Burhus ... Seldon Mapel ... Harry Mastin ... John Nelson ... Fran Noakes ... Rick Patterson ... Edith Vaughn ... Those living in fear or mourning due to violence, civil unrest, and political division.
WE MOURN WITH THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF: Milo Spaniel ... Joy Wallace ... Brett Zimmer.
REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE IN OUR MILITARY: Brett Daniel Bostick (grandson of Paula Overton) ... Nelson Clarke (nephew of Rick and Mary Peters and great-nephew of George and Beverly Cox) ... Colton Jack David (grandson of Jack and Karen David) ... Garrett Cox (grandson of George and Beverly Cox)... Brian Ellis (son of Ellen and Mike Ellis) ... Matt & Jennifer Kiser (son and daughter-in-law of Helene Kiser)... Cristopher B. Smith (grandson of Betsy Smith) ... Michael Sosuto (grandson of George & Martha Jane Staples).

Deacons Corner

Message from the Deacons:

Let's face it. Our lives change, often in ways we did not expect, and sometimes in ways we do not like.

Every month when the Deacons meet, we consider church members and friends of the church that might want a visit, a ride, a card, or a phone call, and then try to follow up to see how we can help. If you know someone in our congregation whose life circumstances have changed – even temporarily – and might need a little extra support, please let us know! Contact the church office (817-282-9181 or admin@stphil.org) or find a Deacon after church on Sunday.

Your currently serving Deacons are Kathleen Grimes (chair), Karen Asante, Margaret Baker, Marilyn Bowers, Bill Evans, Donna Jowell, Marilyn Matthews, Gabor Nagy, and Elaine Stokes.

Blessings!



September 18th at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Part 4 The Tentacles of Caste (pgs. 167-207)

Conversations on Racial Equity group will continue discussions of the book, *Caste: the Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.

The participants should read pages:

1 - 96 of *Caste* and come prepared to discuss what they learned or insights they gained. Through compelling stories, Isabel Wilkerson talks about our system of racial oppression, which she describes as a caste system. Ms. Wilkerson compares it to the caste system in India and the oppression of the Jews in Nazi Germany. *Caste* is a compelling, disturbing, but ultimately hopeful book. Join us for a lively discussion.

Please contact Mary Peters for the Zoom link: mgnpeters@gmail.com

Connection Lunch Gathering

Thinking about the past couple of years has made most of us prioritize our goals in life; even our daily activities. Longing for what “once was normal”, we realize things will never be the same and stepping out into this new way of life can be difficult. It is even more challenging for people who have lost a spouse, a loved one, a dear friend, or for those who have endured another type of tragic, life-changing event. The Deacons of St. Philip Presbyterian are reaching out to men and women by offering a **“Connection Lunch Gathering” at Panera Bread Conference room, 1804 Precinct Line Rd., Hurst at 11:30am the 4th Thursday of each month (the date for the next lunch will be September 22nd)** for a joyful time of connecting and sharing. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kathleen Grimes @ 817-992-2963.

“The CDC recommends that you stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and get tested if you have symptoms. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. If you are immunocompromised, please seek guidance from your doctor.” Remember: You can always join in worship on-line.



UNDY SUNDAY – THIRD SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH

THANK YOU for your continued support for this mission.
We are assembling another complete set of 120 First Night bags to be delivered to CPS.

Items most needed at this time: Boys pajamas and underwear - sizes 4,6,8; Girls pajamas and underwear - size 8. Beanie Babies or Other small size stuffed animals—New or Gently Used.

Can't attend church on UNDY Sunday? Not a problem, you can drop off your donation in the UNDY Bin located by the East door (across from the elevator) any time you are in the church building. We will make sure your items are delivered!

OR

You may order on-line and have it delivered to:
Bonnie Brockway 741 Highland Park Dr., Hurst, TX 76054.
Text or call Bonnie to let her know to look for the package – 817.360.5472

If you prefer, checks can be written to St. Philip. Please note CC's Carry Ons or Foster care in the memo. All donations are tax deductible.

Back to School is going great thanks to you, St. Philip!

\$930 in school supplies were donated by the congregation.

Hurst Junior High staff received 104 boxes of Kleenex and teachers got Sonic gift cards for afternoon soft drinks. Betsy Smith made decorative boxes of Teacher's Treats showing our appreciation. Warren Qualley, Betsy Smith and Susan and Dave Riley were the mission group for procurement and delivery.

KEYS High School's staff received wonderful "Welcome Back Gift Bags" made and delivered by Mission members Sherri Edwards, Bitsie Welch, Jo Holt and Betsy Smith.

Our new Adopt A School, Shady Oaks Elementary, received Kleenex, Sharpie pens, snacks for the Teacher's Lounge, stickers and hand sanitizers. Also, a special treat were the boxes of snacks made by Betsy Smith. Mission members Carol Sanders, Lee Larkin, Betsy Smith, Susan and Dave Riley were involved in acquiring, organizing and delivering the items.

God bless you, St. Philip, for all you do!

Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday

October 2, 2022

On October 2, Presbyterians will join believers around the world to celebrate World Communion Sunday. On that same day St. Philip, along with many other congregations, will receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering. This offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

We are called as Christ's people to be God's peacemakers as agents of reconciliation in families, individual lives, communities, churches, the international arena and the whole of creation. We will share our local portion (25%) of the offering with North East Emergency Distribution (N.E.E.D.) in order to help our neighbors who are experiencing difficult times with food and TXU assistance.

You are encouraged to give in person, send a check (marked Peacemaking) to the church office or give online at StPhil.org. [Click here to give online](#). This will take you to St. Philip website. Click on Give Now at the top of the page. Then click on the "Seasonal Special Offering" button. Please give generously on October 2 to support local and global peacemaking ministries.

Session Highlights- August 21 Meeting



August SESSION APPROVED items and other Highlights

We set the **date of the “Fall Festival”**- October 22nd from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. The **alternate date** for inclement weather for the Fall festival to be on October 29th.

Look for notices in the newsletter, bulletin, and Constant Contact giving information about using and participating in the **Prayer Chain**.

Financial report for June and July, 2022

Month of June: Income \$42,790 Expenses \$38,187 Difference +\$4,603

Month of July: Income \$38,428 Expenses \$51,282 Difference -\$12,853

July expenses included a gift given to the Presbytery that was not budgeted.

Year to Date: Income \$402,687 Expenses \$305,207 Difference +\$97,482

We continue to have a good operating cash position going into the Fall; primarily because of the gift from the Ann Treleven Estate.

COVID NUMBERS were presented. Spread in the community remains low. No change to our recommendations to the congregation.

MINISTRY DIRECTIONS- Session Retreat information was shared and we’re moving toward a communication plan to share a **statement as to why St. Philip exists** and the behaviors we are to exhibit to each other and others. The statement will go out to the congregation asking for feedback.

Our Faith Community Nurse, Bonnie Skodak, will conduct a **Health Interest Survey** during July into August. Bonnie will publicize it and request a response from SPPC members. Information from the survey will be returned to SPPC. All HIPAA guidelines will be observed with information obtained.

We will conduct our **annual flu shot event** that is sponsored by Texas Health Resources. It is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 am through 1:00 pm (or until they run out of shots) on Saturday, October 15th and will be a drive-through event. The flu shot will be available to SPPC members, but its purpose is to reach our immediate neighborhood. SPPC’s involvement will be to provide access to the parking lot, a few members to handle paperwork and a few others to assist with traffic flow.

Church Membership: 282

Average Weekly Worship Attendance (in-person): July – 71 (range: 52-87)

We are developing a **Pay-per-Use** concept for the use of St. Philip’s space for meetings and events. This ties in with the goal defined in the 2021 Renewal Agenda to reach into and be relevant to a broad range of ages and cultural groups, and reach into the local community.

To make the **church building more secure**, we are evaluating the video cameras and security systems needed for the Preschool and church facility. This issue will be worked out jointly between the the Preschool and the Church (Building and Grounds Committee).

Stream of Becoming

*Tomorrow I will be...
A raindrop released
by a resplendent downpour
of inspiration;
defined by brilliance.
I will beat like a drum
and sparkle in the sun.
washing away despair
as I shatter against a world
Gone wrong.
When life calls me to be...
I will become a balmy breeze
lingering after a shower.
absorbing troubles, pressures
and worries
as they pass thru me
on their way to nothing.
I bring fresh energy to the world of old
as I am living in the stream of becoming.*

By Lori Newbold



N.E.E.D. EAST
FOOD DRIVE COOKOUT
Saturday, September 10
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
724 w. Bedford-Eules Road
(corner of Hurstview Drive)

Free Hotdogs
and
Treats 4 the Kids.



St. Philip is a long-time contributor of time, volunteers, and food/hygiene items to N.E.E.D. your once-monthly collections do much to help those in need in our neighborhoods. Our monthly drives, along with those from other local churches and our community grocers, have in the past been enough to serve our community, but the last couple of years have been a challenge of shortages coupled with increased demand. Thank you for your generous support of N.E.E.D.!

NEEDDFW.ORG
Non-perishables accepted.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

One Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

In-person & Live Stream

Directions for Live Stream Worship

You will be able to see it by going to our website www.stphil.org. Click the link at the top of the page and you will see a countdown timer until the service starts at 10:30 a.m. On the right hand side of the live stream page you can jump to Facebook where you can watch in full-screen mode or jump to our YouTube channel and watch the live stream.

WEB PAGE: Get more information about St. Philip at www.stphil.org



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www.facebook.com/stphilhursttx

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