

# The Guidepost



St. Philip's Lutheran Church  
5320 Limestone Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808



## January 2024



**"As an inclusive and caring congregation, our mission is to make disciples,  
praise God, and serve the community"**

## What's Next for St. Philip's in 2024? Parking Lot Expansion & Basement Finishing

So, with this edition of the *Guidepost* we are ringing in a New Year. We are also entering into a year when we are going to have to once again begin talking about where St. Philip's is going in the coming years. The answer to that question is longer than this *Guidepost* article can describe. After all, we generally only get a few paragraphs per month. So, the answer to where we are going as a congregation is something we'll be laying out for you in the coming weeks and months. But this one thing I can tell you . . . We can't get there until we deal with two problems. And both of them have to do with space.

When we moved the church in 2016 there were two things that we "scrimped" on . . . The parking lot and the basement finishing. You see, at that time, we were already dealing with cost overruns - but even more than that, when you are asking a congregation to take on a project like building a new church building, there is a huge burden of being a good and faithful steward of your money. So, when the building team in 2015 and 2016 was looking at what we were spending all in the hope that we would grow when we got here, we were . . . well, scared. So, we scaled down the project so that the parking lot was the bare minimum it could be under State of Delaware regulations. And we scaled down and didn't finish the basement, including installing an elevator (which would be required by the county when we put in for a building permit).

And during COVID, we didn't want to take on those projects because we didn't know what St. Philip's would look like when we came out of the pandemic . . . Well, let me tell you . . . We are stronger and more active than ever. We regularly fill the parking lot on Sundays. For both Christmas concerts this year we had to have people park in fire lanes. And as I write this letter to you Christmas Eve is coming in a few days . . . Christmas Eve 2019 saw people drive around our parking lot and when it was full, they left and went somewhere else. This can't happen again. Likewise, our space on a Sunday morning is maxed out. We need more rooms for folks to meet and we need to free up our Fellowship Hall for it's intended use.

So, at our Congregational Meeting on January 28th, we are going to introduce our initiative to finish the building so that we can be ready for our future that we have planned out and so that we can welcome people in. We know a Jesus that the world needs to meet—and we need to make space for them so that they can meet this Jesus. Because one thing we know about everyone who has come to join St. Philip's . . . They are blessed by us and we are blessed by them. And together the world is blessed by what we do as St. Philip's together. Join us on January 28th.

It is a joy to be here at St. Philip's!

One of my favorite ministries, that I am greatly looking forward to leading, is **Pub Theology** that begins January 18th from 6:30-8:30pm at Chuck Lager. We will gather every third Thursday. Some of the best conversations I have ever had about God and my faith have been over a beer. We all have questions, thoughts and ideas. We all have a theology - what words we use to talk about God and our faith, and Pub Theology is a great way to do that.

Pub Theology is all about open and honest, relaxed, and faith-filled conversations about things that matter. A table where all perspectives are welcome and appreciated. The format is simple: *beer, conversation, and God*. Come and bring your questions and thoughts, bring a friend, pull up a chair, and join me. You'll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way, and hey— there's likely to be a good craft beer you haven't tried yet!

*Looking forward to learning with you and from you!*



**On Sunday,  
January 28, 2024  
we will hold our  
Annual  
Congregational  
Celebration**

**Join us as we continue  
to celebrate the  
wonderful  
ministry that God has  
called us to here  
at St. Philip's!**

**Make this one of  
the  
first items you  
mark down on  
your  
2024 calendar!**



**St. Philip's CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION!!**

**Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.**

**In the Sanctuary**

# **Come and Celebrate**

## **Mark Davis' 90th Birthday!!**

On **Saturday, March 23rd**, come and celebrate

**Mark Davis' 90th Birthday**  
in the **St. Philip's Fellowship Hall**

From: **Noon til 2 p.m.**



**Mark Davis' 90th Birthday Celebration Registration Form Link is Below:**

**<https://forms.gle/vi9sj9dRNYrr77aA7>**

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(tear off and place in the offering plate or drop off at the church office)

Family Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Family Members attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contact E-mail and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In 1850, Alfred Lord Tennyson was appointed Poet Laureate of England and composed a famous elegy titled: "In Memoriam". Why am I sharing this with you this month? Because included in this work is the poem "Wild Bells" and you all know a famous line from that poem. With me yet?

"Ring out the old and ring in the new"!

To me, that is the story of St. Philips for 2023 and 2024...we rung out a wonderful year of making disciples, praising God, and serving the community. As a congregation we were pleased to see Pastor John move to lead a new Congregation, and we welcomed Pastor Amy to assist Pastor Patrick lead us in worship. Our membership grew, we provided food and many other gifts to the community, and we continued to support our refugee families. We began a ministry of Environmental Stewardship and in addition to our regular worship services, we had the wonder of musical events.

Now, as we prepare for 2024, we will be looking at an ambitious budget which will continue our service and worship, as well as undertake projects in the building and the parking lot.

It is so exciting to be a member of St. Philips and to learn, serve, worship and sing. I hope you are all as excited for 2024 as I and the Church Council are...so....by all means...please join me in joyfully "ringing out the old and excitedly ringing in the new!!!" (and a special thanks to Lord Tennyson!)

Happy New Year to all of you!

My article is rooted in Matthew Chapter 5, verses 13-16 just after the Beatitudes where Jesus is still speaking to the people, including his disciples.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Jesus is emphasizing that it is not enough to just believe in him, but it is also important for us to share his message and display actions with all people (including family, friends, neighbors, and strangers) consistent with what he has shared with us - that Jesus is the light, the way, the connection to God and to eternal life.

Have you ever had an encounter with a stranger who asked for help and when you paid attention to that person you felt the presence of Jesus? Maybe it was the person’s spoken words to you, maybe their demeanor, or perhaps the way your eyes connected to their eyes. Somehow, some way you knew that person to be one who had faith in God.

I recall one such encounter that happened to me many years. I was exiting a fancy restaurant in Philadelphia with some colleagues and business associates all dressed in suits and ties when a homeless person asked for some spare change so he could get something to eat. I, like the others in my group, initially ignored him. I then awkwardly reached into my pocket to give him some money and when I gave the cash to him, he gently grabbed my hand and said God Bless You. It’s not his words that moved me, but the touch and the connection we made with our eyes that made me feel that Jesus was in our midst. I thought I was the one doing the good deed, when in fact it was the homeless person sharing the light of the world with me.

One of my colleagues said I was making a mistake to give money to this homeless person and that he would only use it on drugs and alcohol. I told him that I believed and felt he would use it to feed himself and even if he didn’t do that, I gave him a meaningless amount of money to me that was probably all that he had received that day, and it was his choice to use it wisely.

As Christians, we try to follow the advice of Jesus to let our light shine on others, whether that individual is a Christian, a Jew, a Muslim, or a person without faith. We shine our light by demonstrating patience, kindness, joy, and generosity as Jesus continues to show us every day!

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father continue to bless all your people with your love, grace, peace, and comfort. Guide us to show your light of the world, our savior and lord, Jesus, to the world. Amen.*

# FIRST COMMUNION



It may only be January, but Easter is coming! At this time of year we invite all children who are ready to receive Holy Communion to join this year's First Communion Class, in preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. These are typically children in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> grades and above.

The three week course will be taught by Pastor Patrick and requires the participation of both students and one or both parents. The three course sessions will be held February 25th, March 3rd and 17th at 12:00 pm. Each session is 1 1/2 hours.

All interested families should fill out the form below, detach it, and return it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate. We look forward to sharing in this sacramental journey with you and your child. Please speak with Pastor Patrick if there are any questions.

✂ .....

## First Communion Registration Form

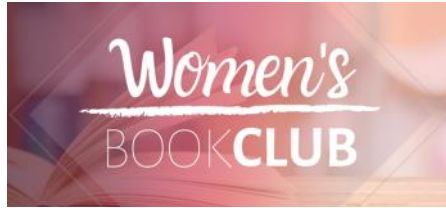
Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Family Members attending the Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents E-mail and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





The Woman's Daytime Book Group had its last meeting of the year on December 11th with its annual Christmas social. We will begin the new year on Tuesday, January 16th, 12:30 pm, in the church fellowship hall. Our book for discussion is, THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF SAM HELL . On February 20th, we will discuss THE MAGDALEN GIRLS. New members are always welcome. Any questions, ask Gigi Mueller.

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**Ministries at St. Philip's - Women's Evening Book Club****Dawn Downes and Donna Daugherty**

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The Women's Evening Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall or individual homes. Our time together is much like a happy hour with good friends! Feel free to bring a snack or beverage to share. If you have any questions please contact Dawn Downes or Donna Daugherty. Mark your calendars and plan to come... we hope you will join us. Everyone is welcome! Our upcoming reads are:

January 12 - *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

February 9 - *We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza

March 8 - *the Mountain Sings* by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai

April - New Castle County Reads book - TBD



**O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.** Our presenters that day will be OC and Nirmala Abraham. The Abrahams will be doing a presentation on the Christianizing of the country of India. Most people don't know that it was the Apostle Thomas who traveled to India to bring the good news of Jesus to the Indian people. We will meet from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring whatever you would like to eat or drink that day. We look forward to seeing you on the 9<sup>th</sup>!

## From the Finance Committee

Teri Suddard

12/7/2023

11:37a

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

**Treasurer's Report by Major Group**

November of Fiscal Year 2023

Responsibility: All

Fund: 01 - General

	November Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Percent of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Group 00	41,099.67	455,541.20	433,585.24	105.06%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>41,099.67</b>	<b>455,541.20</b>	<b>433,585.24</b>	<b>105.06%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Administration	1,206.61	32,936.97	32,358.48	101.79%
Committees	13,835.97	134,211.24	162,048.37	82.82%
Pastor	10,744.61	116,426.72	116,136.24	100.25%
Staff	15,307.26	110,303.65	179,311.22	61.52%
Utilities	346.58	18,768.94	16,683.37	112.50%
Benevolence	1,458.33	16,041.63	16,041.63	100.00%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>42,899.36</b>	<b>428,689.15</b>	<b>522,579.31</b>	<b>82.03%</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>-1,799.69</b>	<b>26,852.05</b>	<b>-88,994.07</b>	



## Remembrance of Baptism Worship Service

is Sunday, January 7, 2024

At both worship services, we will celebrate The Baptism of our Lord by, once again, having a Remembrance of Baptism service. In previous years, this worship experience was loved by those who attended it. We'll be focusing our worship on how we are saved through our Baptism into Jesus' own death and resurrection.

# THANK YOU!

To My St. Philip's Family,

What a SURPRISE, and yes it really was a surprise! I came for the Cantata and was not only blessed with the AMAZING Cantata but with a celebration. It has truly been a pleasure and honor to work at St. Philip's for 20 years. From the first day I started, I was greeted by such wonderful people.

The congregation at St. Philip's is like no other. You are the kindest, thoughtful, most generous people I've ever met.

The cards, notes, gift cards, congregation gift were beyond anything I would have expected. Through my years here I've had the opportunity to work with so many of you in various roles, and where sometimes it's been a challenge (Council President and Team Guidepost Articles, you know who you are, haha) I've never once wanted to work anywhere else. Amy recently said, "it's so nice to get up and come to a place you really want to be!", I completely agree!!

Patrick from day one has been there for me, trained me to do things "the St. Philip's way", and I have appreciated not only the boss he is, but the friend he will always be to me. It's been a pleasure to work side by side for so many years.

Thank you again for everything. I look forward to more years with you! Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Peace,  
Lisa

# Together in Faith



## A Community Learning Experience for all Ages



**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

**\*9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

- Adults and Youth will share and fellowship
- Kid's Club will meet as usual.
- There will be a presentation about possible plans for the woodlands and wetlands behind the church. Use the sign up poster and/or sign up genius to volunteer to bring food.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-46222911-together>

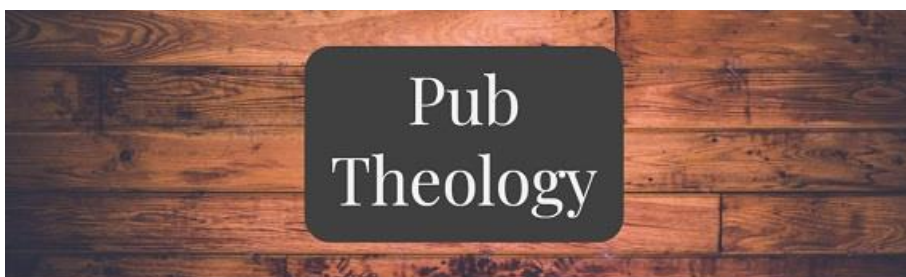
**\*The Nursery Will Be Open!**

The holiday season is sometimes difficult for some people. Loss of loved ones, an illness of self or someone close to you, depression or loneliness. Stephen Ministers are here to help you through those troubled times. Just let one of the Pastors or Gigi Mueller know if you would like a Stephen Minister.

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**From Ministries at St. Philip's - Pub Theology****Pastor Amy**

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Martin Luther once said: “*Whoever drinks beer*, they are quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink **beer!**”

***Get excited*** because **Pub Theology** is back and beginning every 3rd Thursday, starting in January: Thursday, January 18th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Chuck Lager.

Pub Theology is all about open and honest, faith-filled conversations about things that matter. A table where all perspectives are welcome and appreciated. The format is simple: *beer, conversation, and God*. Come and bring your questions and thoughts, bring a friend, pull up a chair, and join Pastor Amy. You'll be able to share your own wrestling's and thoughts while learning something new along the way, and hey— there's likely to be a good craft beer you haven't tried yet! Cheers, Prost, Cin cin, Santé, and Salud!



## St. Philip's Congregational Pasta Dinner and Bingo Night Saturday, March 2, 2024

Join us **March 2nd** at **5:00 p.m.** for a  
homemade pasta dinner followed by  
the most highly competitive night of  
bingo you've ever seen. The most  
exciting prizes  
donated by local merchants will be  
awarded to winners.

Tickets will go on sale February 4th!  
Mark your calendars!

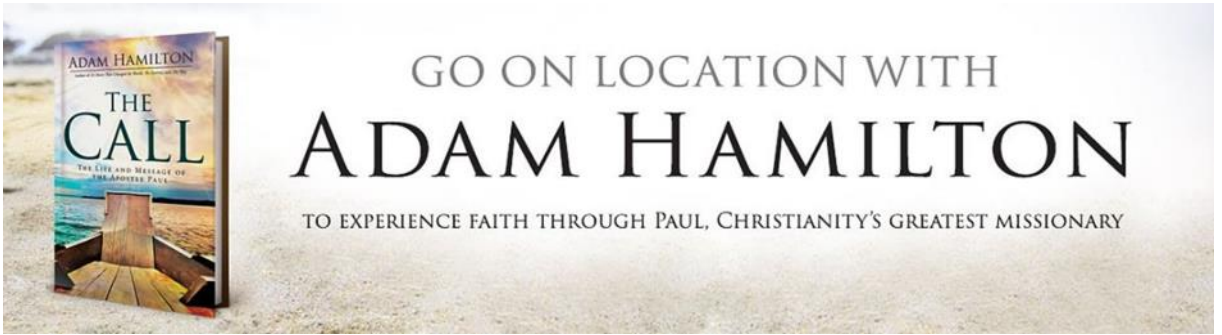






Youth Group  
Babysitting Event  
and  
Hilltop Gift  
Shopping





## **Join us For A Special Winter Video Series Journey Alongside the Most Famous Missionary, Paul**

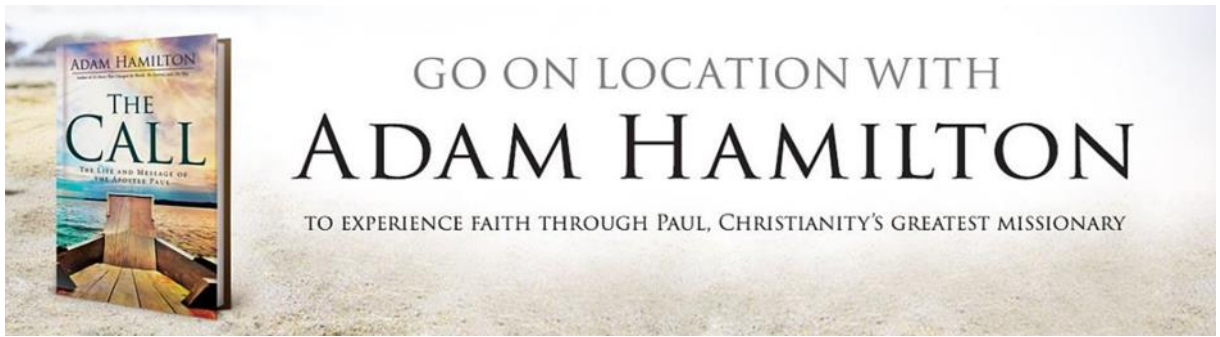
On Sunday Mornings January 14 - February 25, 2024 at 9:15 am  
Classes will be held in the Social Hall Led By Pastor Patrick  
and are all about The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul.

Called to Follow Christ  
Called to Go  
Called to Suffer  
Called to Love  
Called to Give  
Called to be Faithful  
The Call We Share

Everyone is invited to this class, whether you were registered for small groups or not. This is a whole church experience.







### **Session 1 January 14th: Called to Follow Christ**

What was Paul's background? How did his conversion take place?  
And what shape did his early ministry take?

### **Session 2 January 21st: Called to Go**

Follow Paul along his first Missionary Journey

### **Session 3: January 28th: Called to Suffer**

Follow Paul along his Second Missionary Journey

### **Session 4 February 4th: Called to Love**

Paul's Second Missionary Journey Continues

### **Session 5 February 11th: Called to Give**

Follow Paul along his Third Missionary Journey

### **Session 6 February 18th: Called to be Faithful**

Paul's Death and Legacy

### **Session 7 February 25th: The Call We Share**

Paul's Mission Continues in We Gentiles

**HELP BUILD OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH!**

Build relationships, meet new people, find an activity that works for you!

The **Nursery** is open for both services and during the education hour in between services. Contact Maryann Shovestul if you have questions.

The **Small Group Bible study** has completed the fall session. It will return on March 10th with the Holy Spirit as the topic. Participants are encouraged to join the large group presentations in January and February. Other activities will continue during the winter months (**Rise and Shine, Breakfast Club, Kid's Club, Youth Group** and **Mission Kids**).

There will be a **Together in Faith Breakfast on January 7th at 9:15 a.m.** Join us for food and fellowship. There will be a presentation about possible plans for the woodlands and wetlands behind the church. Use the sign up poster and/or sign up genius to volunteer to bring food. (See separate page for more information)

A **Winter Video Series** led by Pastor Patrick will begin on **January 14th at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall.** The title of the series is *"The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul."* It will be in a large group setting; no registration needed....just drop in when you can. (See separate pages for more information)

Check out the **Lending Library** in room 128 where you'll find bible reference books and books by Christian authors with a wide range of topics. Use the sign out sheet if you want to borrow a book; when you return the book sign it in and drop it in the basket next to the book shelves.



Kids Club has been working hard with Lauren and Stephen to learn a special Christmas song. They are excited to perform at the 6:30 service on Christmas Eve. Each week the kids have been working with Legos to enhance the Bible lessons. In November, the kids stretched their creativity and built a Thanksgiving table to include Biblical figures we have learned about thus far, as well as our church family. Everyone is excited for the holidays and can't wait to see what 2024 brings in Kids Club!

**From Ministries at St. Philip's - Mission Kids**

**Anna Grieder and Liz Freburger**



In December, Mission Kids kicked off the Advent season with our annual Advent workshop. With help from the youth group, the kids followed an interactive Christmas Trail to learn about the Nativity story. They made a craft, enjoyed snacks, and decorated a gingerbread Nativity scene. 2023 has been a very busy year for the Mission Kids and we can't wait to experience new adventures and make new friends in 2024. Stay tuned to your email for information about our early 2024 events!

**Rise and Shine! Hello young adults of St. Philip's!** We are excited to share that we will be creating a new Sunday morning small group for the Fall 2023 programming! Our group name will be Rise and Shine. This group will be geared more towards the young adults of the church. Whether you are a parent that is dropping a kid off at Breakfast Club or Kid's Club or if you simply never found the right fit in another Sunday morning small group. We would like to welcome you to a space that is available to sip your coffee, or water, and get to know the other young adults of the church. We would like to create a space to hold casual conversations with friends and a place to share the highs and the lows from your week. This group will not be following along with the weekly Bible Study, and there is zero commitment involved. This group will meet every Sunday at 9:15 AM in room 130. We hope to see you there! Please contact Liz Freburger if you have any questions or would like more information!

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**Ministries at St. Philip's from Koinonia****Sharon Kittle and Gigi Mueller**

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**Koinonia:** If you're looking for a small group that has fellowship, food and support for one another a koinonia group (Greek for fellowship) might be right for you! Our next koinonia gathering is on **January 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. We will be starting the book *Fascinating Bible Studies on Every Parable*. A second group, that meets with the Mueller's, that Koinonia group will meet on **Sunday, January 7 at 6:00 pm** at the Mueller for a post holiday gathering. Please let Gigi Mueller know if you have any questions and if you are coming. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.



**Worship Assistants Are Needed!!!** We could use everyone's help as we work through this pandemic time. A small group of us have taken on the task of leading worship and ushering and greeting during the pandemic. Before COVID, we had a huge team doing this task. We need our worship assistants to begin returning to their jobs. We also would love to welcome new servants into this ministry. Contact Louise James if you are willing to help.

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**Every year we provide the members the chance** to signup to dedicate chancel flowers (we used to call them altar flowers when they sat on the altar, but now they are on the shelf in the chancel area) in memory or in honor of loved ones. In order to make it easy for you to signup for flowers for the 2024 Calendar Year, below is a link to a signup genius form that will allow you to dedicate flowers for the coming year. **The flowers for 2024 will be \$50.** You will pick the date you want to sign-up for and then it will ask you to type in your dedication and then click the submit button. Like last year, we are asking that you please mail in your payment for the flowers **AT THE TIME YOU FILL OUT THIS DEDICATION SIGNUP.** The only reason we are asking this is that many people forget that they signed up and then forget to send the money in. Altar Guild is trying to avoid coming after the dedication money months afterwards. Thank you so much. To make a dedication, click here:

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-45509019-flower>**





**Ministries at St. Philip's from Family Promise**

**Marty Budd and Rebecca Bardenhagen**

Our hosting continues on January 21-27

Thanks to all of you who have donated time, food, and other needed staples during our host weeks in 2023! In 2024 St. Phillips will be responsible for hosting the weeks of January 21-27, April 7-13, May 12-18, and November 17-23.

We will continue to provide food for breakfast and lunch, staples such as laundry detergent, etc., and evening meals during our host week at the Jesus House off of Milltown Road.

There will be sign-up posters in the Narthex with menus and perishables items which will be collected before January 21 and a Sign Up Genius for the staples. The sign-up for staples will begin in early January and items may be left in the Narthex until January 14. Feel free to contact Rebecca Bardenhagen or Marty Budd with any questions.

Blessing to all!

Rebecca Bardenhagen and Marty Budd

**FAMILY PROMISE**

**Our Next Host Week: January 21, 2024 to January 27, 2024**

Here at St. Philip's we have one *amazing* Youth Group! A Youth Group full of energy, kindness, inclusivity, humor and is centered on serving and loving God and our neighbors. It is a joy to learn with and from them!

As the new year begins, we have a bunch of great stuff coming up that we are looking forward to!

**1/7 - Ice Skating & Ice Cream at UDairy (12-3pm)**

**1/14 - Dinner & Movie Night (5:30-8pm)**

**1/21 No Youth Group**

**1/28 Trampoline Park**

**2/9-2/11 - HIGH SCHOOL EVENT/ROADTRIP** - This year at the Potomac Park Retreat & Conference Center in West Virginia, our DE-MD Synod is hosting the Senior High Youth Gathering for all youth in grades 9-12th. **GET PUMPED!** To get signed up click on the link or grab your paper copy in the Narthex. Registration is due by January 14th. Please return the form to Pr. Amy.

Link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1svTwjQWBLsm8Wm\\_w25-SC\\_2BMKMZ1eTK/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1svTwjQWBLsm8Wm_w25-SC_2BMKMZ1eTK/view)

And, of course, we are getting ready for the Spaghetti Dinner and the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA! We love our St. Philip's Youth Group!



We are always looking for new members – and if you have given a thought to “What would I like to do as part of my ministry for St. Philips” Altar Guild and the Bread Ministry team are here to welcome you – We meet approximately 4 times a year – Everyone is assigned on our quarterly schedules – approximately 2 or 3 times a quarter – and it entails – approximately 1 ½ – 2 hrs the weekend you are assigned. Bread Ministry entails making the bread and bringing it to church for Sunday Services – you are assigned usually 5 times in the year. Don't worry – if this isn't your area to get involved we understand – there are so many areas to share your particular expertise / excitement. If any questions/concerns – you can contact Carol Oesterbo.

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**Ministries at St. Philip's - Care Kits****David & Donna Porter**

**CARE KITS for homeless persons are available** under the coat rack in the narthex. Consider picking up one or two to share with homeless persons you may encounter in your travels.

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**Grief Group - Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!!** If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **January 11th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in the Fellowship Hall here at church. If you are interested in being a part or learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

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**Ministries at St. Philip's****Ellen Lenker and Sharon Holeman**

**Pinners and Knotters**, a longtime ministry at **St. Philip's**, is meeting on **the third Wednesday of the month at noon in the Fellowship Hall**, and always seeks new volunteers for this important work. Ellen Lenker or any current worker can answer any questions about the ongoing projects. Consider joining for the fellowship, a chance to be creative, and continue this important ministry. The Pinners and Knotters will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 17th at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Ellen Lenker received a "thank you" from Nemours/Alfred DuPont Hospital for Children for our recent donation of 42 bags and 13 quilts. There is more work to be done, please join us.

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**Ministries outside of St. Philip's -**

**Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group Continues to Meet at St. Philip's** - The Alzheimer's Assn. of the Delaware Valley is sponsoring a monthly support group for anyone who has a loved one with any form of dementia, including Alzheimer's. Living with or caring for a person with dementia can be extremely challenging, overwhelming and exhausting. The group offers education, support, and the opportunity to connect with others in a similar situation. Free and open to the public, the group will meet on **the second Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on **January 9th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

**Food Insecurity due to inflation is on the Rise! Can you help?** Food demand still continues to be very high. If you are at the grocery store or if someone goes for you, you can pick up needed items and drop them in the box in the narthex. We are especially in need of: **Pasta, Pasta Sauce** (cans are best and Dollar Store has good prices), Shelf **Milk (2%, Almond Breeze, Whole, or Soy** – Again, the Dollar Store is a good source), **Mac & Cheese, Cereal, Canned Vegetables, Toilet Paper, Salt & Pepper, Crackers, Coffee, Tea Bags, Cake Mix/Frosting.** Thank you so much for your generosity!!

**GROCERY CLUB CLOTHING**

We have been getting requests from members for clothing, so Grocery Club is once again accepting donations. We are especially in need of children’s clothing of all sizes but are also looking for men’s and women’s clothing. Summer clothing is preferred. Please contact Nancy Zinnato if you have items to donate.

**GROCERY CLUB**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024 and January 24, 2024**



**WINTER COATS FOR GROCERY CLUB**

Do you have a winter coat that you don’t wear anymore, or that your kids have outgrown? We are asking for men’s, women’s and children’s gently used coats along with hats and gloves. PLEASE make sure coats are in good shape – zippers work, no missing buttons, and no stains! Coats, hats and gloves can be left in the grey collection bin in the Narthex. Thank you for helping our Grocery Club families!



## ARE YOU TIRED...

of hearing about racial and ethnic strife on a nearly daily basis? Individuals, both young and old, simply going about their lives, being attacked verbally and physically because of their skin color, their religion, the clothes they wear... Isn't it enough? Won't it just go away? How long must we endure such senseless, corrosive antipathy?

These are the sentiments expressed by Senator Chuck Schumer in a speech to the US Senate regarding the large spike in hate crimes against Jewish Americans after the October 7 attack by Hamas. This spike comes *on top of* a rising rate of anti-Semitic incidents over the past several years. People attacked at their synagogues, swastikas painted on walls, Jewish cemeteries vandalized, Jewish businesses mobbed. Schumer notes that it is no wonder Jewish Americans live in some fear.

Of course, Jewish people are not alone. The Council on Islamic-American Relations reports an increase of nearly 200% in anti-Muslim incidents in America after October 7<sup>th</sup>. Women in hijabs attacked, Muslim families threatened at gunpoint, a 7-year-old Muslim boy stabbed to death. It is no wonder that Muslim Americans live in some fear.

Why such hatred and violence against these, and other, groups? The causes of animosity toward others are more complex than can be adequately addressed in this brief article. There is a starting point, however, that scholars identify: Xenophobia. The fear of strangers or "others." To the extent that individuals see those unlike themselves as not merely different, but dangerous, hatred and violence easily develop, and those with the power and resources to cause violence do so.

So, are you tired? Me too. But how can we diminish the hatred and violence? Again, not a question given to easy answers. Still, we can make a start, taking a lesson from Jesus. Born into a culture and a religious tradition that esteemed being "set apart" and that scorned "others," Jesus came to reject this viewpoint. He cared about his own people, of course, but he also valued the "others" of his day – Romans, tax collectors, Samaritans, and other assorted "sinners." *His* message was not to fear, hate, and lash out at these others, but to welcome and love them. We can act similarly today. We can reject messages which assert that those who are not like "us" are dangerous and to be feared. We can support those persons and causes which value, welcome, and seek to serve ALL. To paraphrase St Paul - being Jew or Gentile (or Muslim or black or brown) does not matter – there is no distinction. God loves all, and so should we.

The newly formed Environmental Stewardship Team has been at work during these past few months. In addition to projects addressing recycling needs and energy and water use assessments, we have received a long-term commitment from the church council to restore our woodlands, meadows, and wetlands to a more natural and healthy state. That will involve the work-for-hire of Red Tail Restoration and Land Management. The Red Tail staff will prioritize areas of need on our property, identify invasive plants, and remove them in order of priority.

We are invited to work along side Red Tail staff, as we are able, as volunteers. This will help defray the cost of this work, as well as provide proof, particularly for grants that are being applied for, that we are dedicated to this project as a congregation willing to fund as well as to work as volunteers to see it through.

**The Environmental Stewardship Team invites you to our January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Together In Faith breakfast, at which, Phil Duncan and I will report on the status of the Woodlands, Meadows, and Wetlands restoration project.**

I will introduce you to some of our other projects as well. For instance, we are addressing needs as we find them to clarify recycling procedures, limiting use of plastic tableware, and more. We are planning for future energy and water use audits to optimize the energy efficiency of our building and other concerns like conservation of water.

We honor and respect the efforts of this congregation that, not too long ago, sold their old property and purchased this new property in a huge act of faith to provide their services to an expanded community. The attention to building details, during construction, such as adequate insulation, reflective and heat resistant windows, LED motion sensor lighting, and more is testament to the importance this congregation already has for caring for our environment.

Perhaps there is a New Year's resolution we all make, that is to be more caring and kind to all of God's creation. That care can be shown in small tasks that bring about big change when many participate. So please know that all are invited to be a part of our Environmental Stewardship Team whether it be to join us in specific volunteer tasks to restore our woodlands, meadows, and wetlands, or to join us as team members wrestle with the environmental issues of our times and to solve them in our community at least.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the church. Room to be announced.

Questions can be directed to me, David Porter [Port]



### **Upcoming Events in January 2024**

#### **Lunch and Learn with LCS – Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup>**

Join us for a light lunch and presentation by Rob Gurnee, the Executive Director of Lutheran Community Services, after the 10:30 service! Have you donated items for the St Stephen's food pantry? Been to an LCS walk/run? Find out more about the food and health programs at the core of the LCS mission of service to the Wilmington community. Look for the sign up in the narthex.

#### **Family Promise week – January 21-27**

Our next week to provide meals for the families who are part of the Family Promise program at Jesus House will begin January 21<sup>st</sup>. The signups have already gone up in the Narthex and on signup genius to provide food, serve meals, and donate needed household items. See Rebecca Bardenhagen or Marty Budd if you have any questions about what is needed. *Looking ahead* – Family Promise director will be at St Philip's for a lunch and learn program on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>!

#### **Thank you's**

St Philip's once again enthusiastically supported the children of Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center through the purchase and wrapping of numerous Christmas gifts, all of which were delivered to Hilltop on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who participated and to Elizabeth Stirk for organizing.

Thanks to the seventeen Christmas carolers who turned out on December 17<sup>th</sup> to spread Christmas joy to some of our homebound members. Rumor is that fun was had by all, and the hungry carolers shared some pizza and cookies after their travels around New Castle County.



# Lunch & Learn

Join us on **Sunday, January 21st**  
after the **10:30 a.m.** service  
for a light lunch and presentation  
By Rob Gurnee, the Executive Director of  
Lutheran Community Services  
*Have you donated items for the  
St Stephen's food pantry?  
Been to an LCS walk/run?*

Find out more about the food and health  
programs at the core of the LCS mission of  
service to the Wilmington community.  
Look for the signup in the narthex.





## Remember Us When You Pray

*We believe in the power of prayer, so please remember to keep the following persons and their families in your prayers. Even if you do not know them it means so much to them to know that they are remembered in our daily prayer lives. Also, it would be a wonderful gift for them to hear from their church family:*

### ***We Pray for the Members of St. Philip's:***

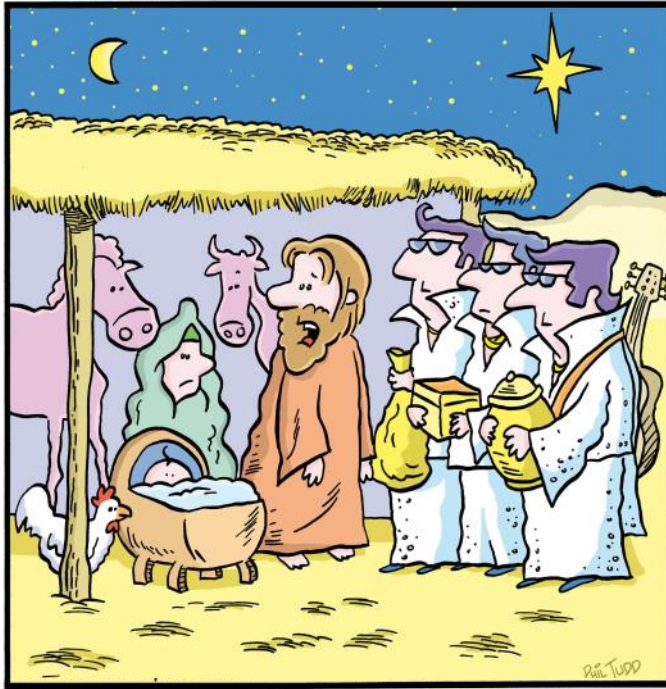
Ron Henry, Russ Hokanson, Judi Parsons, John & Barb Williams, Charles & Ruth Bowles, Lois Hardy, John Newcomer, Sr., Carol Ruckle, Lamont & Sharon Smith, Louise James, Ethel Reichley, Shawn Nascembeni, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sam Cory, Richard Pierce, Daniel & Phyllis Bolgiano, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Leo Velez, Mark & Yvonne Cilento, Charlie Boss, Carol Goodman, Maria Start, Dave Frampton, Danny Mason, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Diane Murray, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Gigi Mueller, Steve Nkurlu and Family, Veronica Stevens

***We Pray for our Loved Ones:*** *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Ruth DiDonato & Family of Earl & Irene Meyer**, family of Linda Burkum; **Emily Ruckle & Tina Davis**, family of Carol Ruckle; **John & Carly Hoeni**, family of Lynn Muller; **Beckie McNelly**, sister of Bob Gibble & Barb Williams; **Lou Cookson**, father of Nick Cookson; **Beth Cookson**, mother of Nick Cookson; **The Greer Family**, friends of Bob Warner; **Dorothy Owens**, sister of Ruth Henry; **Stuart Emerson & Family**, friends of the Swift Family; **Jacob Buckworth & Dawn Cupsie**, grandson & daughter of Lamont & Sharon Smith; **Donald Oesterbo, Jr.**, son of Carol Oesterbo; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simpers; **Mary Jane Myers**, mother of Mark Myers; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son of Yvonne Cilento; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott & Lee & Patricia Craig, friends of The Budds; **Greg Moore**, friend, **David Martin**, **Diane Balinski**, **Debra Jennings**, & **Barney Jennings**, family of Russ Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Jermaine & Joslyn Sanders**, friends of Nancy Zinnato; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family of Mark & Marge Davis; **Carol Henzy**, sister of Beth Molnar; **Danny Brown**, uncle of Trevor Freburger; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **John, Sr. & Anna Longo**, parents of John Longo; **Lew & Donna Longhenry**, parents & **Brad Oliver**, brother-in-law of Bryan Longhenry; **Steve Gibson**, friend of Jean Kunkle; **The Family of Robert Schuh**, family of Diana Longhenry; **Martin Page & Family**, friends of Mike Rosen; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **B J Lawson**, daughter of Jean Kunkle; **Pastor Tom Carlson & Ken Worme**, friends of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Family of Rosemary Herron**, Loved ones of Edna Basilio; **Henry Houtmann**, grandson of Anne Hamilton; **The Family of Brad Scott**, friends of the Brennemans; **Erich Molnar**, son, **Jackson Molnar**, grandson, & **Shana Molnar**, daughter-in-law of Beth Molnar; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman; **Donna Reeves**, sister of Pam Sheffer; **Doris S., Kathleen K. and Chris Lariola**, friends of Anne Hamilton; **Frank Kulick**, brother of Ruth Bowles; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Marilynn Kelley**, Mother of Dawn Downes; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak, **Dave and Sharon Potter**, Friends of Lila Hall; **Maria Perdikis**, friend of Donna & Monika Daugherty



Ian Stirk	1/2	Lana Borrelli	1/18
JoanMarie Powers	1/2	Benjamin Rosen	1/19
Bonnie Anderson	1/3	Clara Simpser	1/20
Tom Brenneman	1/3	Lori Gregg	1/21
Jean Kunkle	1/3	Ryan Zinnato	1/23
Sharon Mutschler	1/3	Mattie Mason	1/27
Brendan Kennedy	1/7	Marion Santak	1/27
Franklin Anderson	1/7	Bill Cox	1/28
Richard Pierce	1/7	Cindi Hoyt	1/28
David Vierung	1/7	Danielle Bye	1/29
Monika Daugherty	1/9	Emma Malatesta	1/30
Nina Boyer	1/9	Amy Papili	1/30
Barbara Stadelberger	1/12	Jonathan Carr	1/31
Witold Brick	1/16	Alice Downes	1/31
Dakota Gladfelter	1/17	Janette Saxton	1/31

**May God Bless You on Your Special Day!**



"They say they are three kings."

Please call the church office at 302-239-2100 when:

- You or a member of your family is sick or in the hospital
- You are planning a meeting or scheduling an event so it can be placed on the church calendar, in the bulletin, and in the Guidepost.
- A baby is expected in your family.
- You want to arrange for a baptism or a wedding.
- Your telephone number, address or email address has changed or you are planning to move, locally or out of town.
- You have a prayer request.
- You feel the church can help you in any way.

Who Does What at St. Philip’s

**Staff:**

Rev. Patrick V. Downes, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Amy Wright, Associate Pastor  
Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO Music Director  
Dr. Lauren Conrad, Director of Choir Ministry  
Lisa Kalinowski, Office Administrator  
.....email: stphilipswilmington@gmail.com

**Officers:**

Gerry Butler, President  
Joann Stevens, Vice President  
Teri Suddard, Treasurer  
Amanda DeWeese, Secretary  
Mike Berkheimer, Financial Secretary

**Council:**

Jerry Aunet  
Coleman Bye  
Liz Freburger  
Matt Grieder  
Carol Johnson

**Council (continues):**

John Longo  
Debbi Miller  
Shawn Nascembeni  
Dave Porter

**Committees/Activities:**

Altar Guild.....  
Christian Education.....  
Enviro. Stewardship.....  
Fellowship.....  
Finance/Audit.....  
Grocery Club.....  
Outreach.....  
Prayer Ministry.....  
Property.....  
.....  
Racial Justice Task Force  
Worship and Music.....

Carol Oesterbo  
Sharon Kittle  
David Porter  
Pam Sheffer  
Coleman Bye  
Nancy Zinnato  
Susan Mack  
Contact Church Office  
Dave Frampton  
Mark Myers  
Phil Duncan  
Louise James

St. Philip’s Lutheran Church

5320 Limestone Road

Wilmington, DE 19808

Phone: (302) 239-2100

Website: [www.stphilips.us](http://www.stphilips.us)

Address Service Requested

***Sunday Morning Schedule***

8:00 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Small Groups, Christian Ed for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary

\*\* Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall Between Services