

# The Guidepost



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



## March 2024



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

## **The New Building Program is Coming . . .**

As you are well aware by now, we are beginning the process of expanding the parking lot and finishing the basement here at St. Philip's. So, what you might be wondering as a member of this church is, "How does that work all get done?" "Who does it?" The short answer is that you do it . . . With the help of people who have amazing gifts and talents you will do that work. No, it doesn't mean that you will be hammering studs, painting parking spot lines, or anything like that. It means that in one way or another we all have a role.

It starts with the plan . . . The folks in our property team and council have been working for months and even years with an engineering firm and New Castle County to develop a plan that would allow us to expand the parking lot along the north border of the property. An engineering plan is developed with considerations for the environment and water runoff, etc. For the basement, an architect produces plans for the layout of the basement with specifications for plumbing, HVAC, fire suppression, insulation, dimensions, etc. All of that is signed off on by New Castle County so we can get building permits.

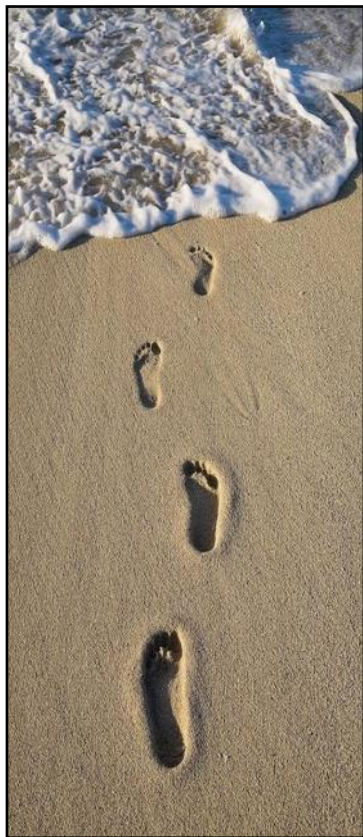
Then a building team, that is made up of folks who sit next to you in worship will work to get bids from contractors to do the work. Meanwhile, we are all going to be working together to raise the additional funds we need to pay for the project: that's the capital campaign. We'll all be giving additional monies on top of what we normally give (because we can't slow what we do to keep the ministry going at the same time) for a finite period of time to make the project happen.

Then the building starts inside and outside. The basement will look much like the upstairs looks, keeping the theme the same. The parking lot will look like . . . Well, a parking lot with the ability to turn around just like our lot does now. And we'll just about double our current parking (not exactly, but nearly).

If you have questions, we want you to know that you can always ask us. Find me and ask me and if I don't know the answer, I'll get you to the person who can answer your question. And also be in prayer . . . Praying about how you will be able to support this plan to finish off what we were not able to do when we built the building in 2016. And thank you for all you do for our ministry.

Greetings St. Philip's,

As we continue in our Lenten season, it has been the "Footprints In The Sand Prayer" that has been on repeat in my mind. *Have you ever heard of it?* It is a well-known prayer + poem hybrid that I will think about, forget about, and then when I rediscover it, it blesses me as if reading it for the first time. And during this holy season of Lent, with the focus on repentance, this *turning* back to God, it is my hope that it blesses you and helps to give you eyes to see God at work in your life a little bit better.

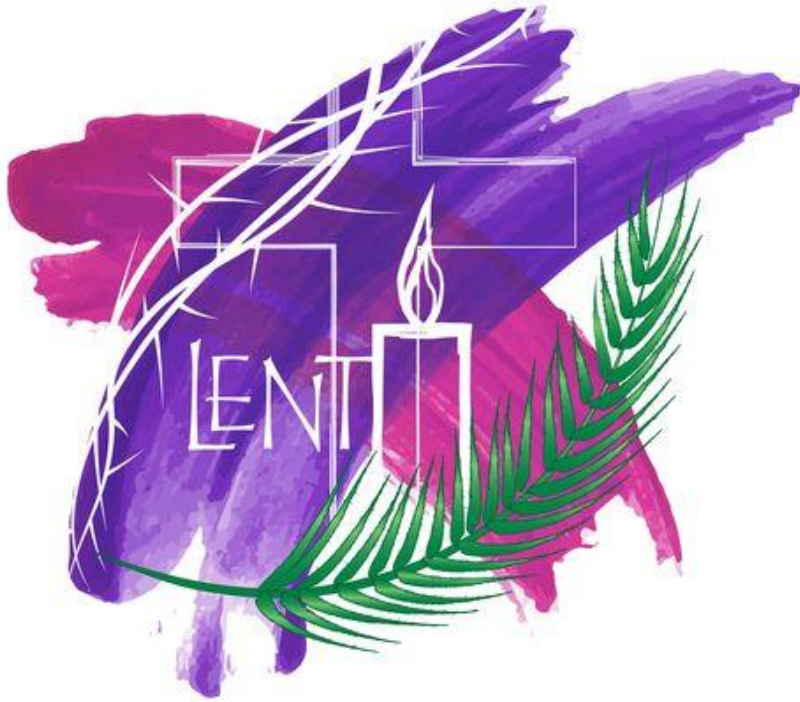


*One night I dreamed a dream. As I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, One belonging to me and one to my Lord. After the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at many times along the path of my life, especially at the very lowest and saddest times, there was only 1 set of footprints.....This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said once I decided to follow you, You'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me and let this happen to me." He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you. Never, ever, during the difficult times you faced. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

Receive this blessing: *You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving trinity. Amen.*

You are loved. You are enough.

Yours in Christ.



## **Wednesday Evenings at St. Philip's:**

*Each of the following Wednesday Evenings **here at St. Philip's**, we'll have Soup and Bread at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Lenten Vespers Service*

**March 6 \* March 13 \* March 20**

## **Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services & Community Lunches**

*"The Sermon on the Mount"*

### **Wednesdays at Noon:**

**March 6 \* March 13 \* March 20**

**Noon to 1:30 p.m.**

This year hosted by: Limestone Presbyterian Church  
3201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2024

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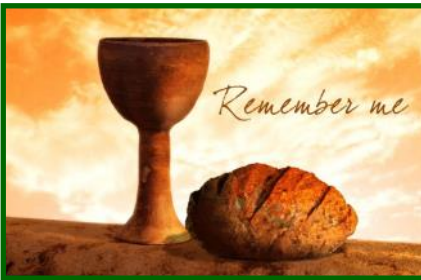


**Passion/Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024**  
Holy Communion Worship Service

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

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**Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024**

Upper Room Worship Service  
and the Stripping of the Altar

**7:00 p.m.**

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**Good Friday, March 29, 2024**

Tenebrae Service of Darkness

**7:00 p.m.**

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**\* Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024**

Easter Celebration **7:45 a.m.**

Easter Celebration **9:00 a.m.**

Easter Celebration **10:30 a.m.**

*(Easter Breakfast will be served continuously from  
8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.)*

There will be No Christian Education Today.



Dear Friends:

Did you know that virtually every day in a month is recorded as some sort of “national celebration day?” I am not exactly sure what you need to do to make this happen...but as I was considering this article I looked up “special days for March” and was amazed at what showed up! These days run from serious and worshipful— Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, to notable dates— Daylight Saving March 10th, and (for Pastor Patrick) Baseball Opening Day March 28 for the Phillies and Orioles.

Nearly every day of the month celebrates some sort of food —Oreo Cookies March 6th, Potatoes Chips March 14, Corned Beef and Cabbage March 17, and Cheesesteaks March 24. Some are just downright silly—Barbie March 9, Rosie the Riveter March 21, and Talk Like William Shatner March 22nd. I do like March 14th which is International Day of Mathematics!

Why am I sharing this with you? Because March 1st is not only National Peanut Butter Lover’s Day...it is **Employee Appreciation Day**. And that is what matters to me and to us. There are books and lists of what you can do for employees on Employee Appreciation Day....but what struck me as a really wonderful thought was to “Just say Thanks” ...What if— on Sunday March 3rd as we come to worship, all of us say “THANKS” to Pastor Patrick, to Pastor Amy to Stephen and Lauren for the wonderful music, and to Lisa for keeping it all together in the Office. We have wonderful “employees”—I like to think of them as “Partners in Faith” and how great would it be just to say “Thanks!”



2024 Annual Meeting



# EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



**Let's Fill Our Sanctuary with Easter Lilies  
on Easter Morning!**

**If you wish to order Easter Lilies this Year,  
please fill out the form below by  
Sunday, March 17, 2024  
and return to the church office or  
drop it in the offering plate.  
The cost per plant will be \$20.**

**Please make your check payable to St. Philip's.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Lilies @ \$20 Each** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication:**

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In loving memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To the Glory of God:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Or submit form to: <https://forms.gle/7Fd1MU9EPjPkP7ZC9>**

**You can pick your lily up after any service on Easter Sunday.**





## Plan on joining us!

Our youth will be serving breakfast on Easter morning  
from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.  
in the fellowship hall.

**Cost will be \$6.00 for adults**

**\$4.00 for children**

**\$15.00 for family**

(Tickets will be available soon!)

The Youth are raising money for their trip this summer.

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## EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt followed by lunch on  
March 24th after the 10:30 service. Families with young  
children (through 5th grade) are invited to attend. There will be food  
and games after the hunt; St. Philip's youth group will be there too!



Scan here for Egg Hunt  
Information and Sign up!



**O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** - Our presenter that day will be Linda Burkum who will present on assistive devices that are used by those with special needs. Please bring whatever you would like to eat or drink that day. We look forward to seeing you on the 12th!

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**From Ministries at St. Philip's - Stephen Ministry****Gigi Mueller**

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There seems to be a lot of sadness right now, both locally and world-wide. Having someone to share your pain with can be helpful..St Philips has a great group of 10 trained Stephen Ministers. If you would like to know more about this wonderful ministry, let Pastor Patrick or Gigi Mueller know.

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**Ministries at St. Philip's - Women's Ministry****Gigi Mueller & Dawn Downes**

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The Galentine's Brunch was a huge success. There were over 30 women in attendance, along with some new members. There was discussion of some upcoming events.

Gigi will be forming a group of women of "a certain age" to get together and share thoughts on where we are at this point in our lives . Also, there is interest in getting together at a local winery to just "hang out" and talk about whatever...Dawn is planning a beach retreat in late April.

If any of this interests you, please let Gigi or Dawn know. Also, we would welcome any ideas you may have. Looking forward to a great year for Women's Ministry.

2/14/2024 10:06a		St. Philip's Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report by Major Group January of Fiscal Year 2024 Responsibility: All Fund: 01 - General			
		January Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Percent of Budget
Income					
Group 00		39,257.73	39,257.73	33,600.00	116.84 %
Total Income		39,257.73	39,257.73	33,600.00	116.84 %
Expense					
Administration		3,747.60	3,747.60	3,158.34	118.66 %
Committees		22,324.54	22,324.54	15,789.16	141.39 %
Pastor		10,832.84	10,832.84	10,980.16	98.66 %
Staff		17,605.72	17,605.72	17,091.90	103.01 %
Utilities		1,589.60	1,589.60	1,933.33	82.22 %
Benevolence		1,458.33	1,458.33	1,458.33	100.00 %
Total Expense		57,558.63	57,558.63	50,411.22	114.18 %
Income Less Expense		-18,300.90	-18,300.90	-16,811.22	



The annual Spring Clean-up day has been scheduled for Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am to noon (Rain Date-April 13<sup>th</sup>).

This year we will again be focusing on sprucing up the outside property. We will have both big and small jobs so something for all abilities.

This is a great opportunity to serve and help beautify the church property. Whatever time you can give would be most appreciated.

St. Philip's Property Committee - Please contact Mark Myers with any questions!



**An exciting ministry has returned to  
St. Philip's!  
“DINNERS OF EIGHT”**

There is within all three Abrahamic Faiths (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) a deep appreciation for and practice of hospitality. In the modern era, there are few opportunities available to experience its main expression, that is, meal fellowship. “Dinners of Eight” seeks to offer members of our congregation, their friends, and, possibly in time, people of other faiths, opportunities to experience each other. It is a smaller gathering (eight is a manageable number to fit around a dinner table allowing those with smaller homes to also participate as host), relatively easy to pull off, and, once established, tends to sustain and grow itself.

Signup sheets have been posted in the Narthex allowing all congregation members the opportunity to join a “dinner of eight”. Those that choose to host should provide the main course and ask the others coming to dinner to bring an appetizer, vegetable, salad, or dessert. The offering of wine and/or beer should be decided by the whole group.

After meeting and sharing dinner, it is encouraged that the guests then host a dinner of their own, which is again open to the members of the congregation to join. Following these gatherings, the ministry would expand again in the same way with the guests hosting their own “dinner of eight”. I look forward to witnessing our congregation come together and grow into a community bound together in fellowship.

For more information please contact Allyson Myers or Gigi Mueller.



# PUB THEOLOGY

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 is coming up on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm! It will be every 3rd Thursday, at Chuck Lager. ALL are welcome at any time!

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!

See you then! Cheers!

Pr. Amy



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**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!  
Children \$5.00/Adults \$7/Family \$20

Mark your calendars!

All proceeds go to our Youth Group for the  
National Youth Gathering this summer!



**THE RITE OF  
Confirmation**

TEACHING THE FAITH WITH PR. AMY  
SIGN UP NOW!

SPRING 2024-  
SPRING 2025

GRADES 7+

QR code for sign up

**The Rite of Confirmation** is starting up SOON! For all interested in being Confirmed please let Pastor Amy know. Confirmation classes will go from Spring 2024-Spring 2025 with the Confirmation date of **Pentecost Sunday**: Sunday, June 8, 2025. The schedule will be as follows for the remaining program year:

Sunday: **March 24** (2:30-4pm), **April 7** (2:30-4pm), **April 21** (3:30-5pm), **April 28** (12:30-2pm), & **May 19** (2:30-3:30pm). The fall and spring schedule will be released this summer. You can sign up using the QR code:





**2024 is already off to a fantastic start! You won't want to miss what's coming! See the upcoming details and dates below! We can't wait to see you!**

**We find ourselves in the season of Lent - a holy season in the church year. Simply put, by Pope Francis, "*Lent is the time where we remember our NEED for God, again.*" In the business of life, Lent encourages us to pause & remember who created us - who God made each of us to be. We journey these 40 days in Lent, together, remembering how much our Savior loves us - loves us all the way to the cross. And even then, the cross doesn't stop God.... #Easter #Resurrection #Eternallife**

### **3/2 - Spaghetti Dinner + Bingo Night (5-8pm)**

**This is the BIGGEST fundraiser we have all year and we cannot wait! All proceeds go to our Youth Group for the National Youth Gathering this summer!**

**3/3 - No Breakfast Club - Together in Faith (9:15-10:15AM)**

**3/10 - Spring Cleaning Service Project (12-3pm)**

**3/17 - No Youth Group**

**3/24 - Palm Sunday Service Event (Easter Egg Hunt) from 11:30-2pm**

**\*Confirmation starts**

**3/31 - Easter Sunday - Easter Breakfast (7-11am)**







## Adult Small Groups Return on March 10th!!

We will again meet to study and discuss The Holy Spirit (March/April) and The Resurrection (April/May). There are groups for all, Women, Men and Mixed. Won't you join us for Fellowship and Learning. Please contact Sharon Price or Pastor Patrick if you have interest or questions.

The Sunday morning groups will meet at 9:15 am March 10th between the services while the Tuesday morning group resumes on March 12th at 10am.



### The Holy Spirit - Mar/Apr 2024

Let's be honest: we don't understand the Holy Spirit at all. We talk about this third person of the Trinity all the time, but what is the Holy Spirit and how does it work? Why do we care? Can't we just stick with Jesus? And why is the understanding of the Holy Spirit different in different books of the bible? Explore why the Holy Spirit is so important to us as God's Church.



### Resurrection - Apr/May 2024

Okay, let's get to the heart of our faith . . . What happens to us when we die? What will we look like? Will we recognize our loved ones? Do we get partially raised while we wait for the end of the world? It is bodily resurrection or just spiritual? New life and resurrection are the heart of our faith - come explore this complex idea that is at the heart of Christianity.



### Small Group Registration - Cut and Drop in Offering Plate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Session Registering for: ☐ Holy Spirit Small Group ☐ Resurrection Small Group

Group I prefer to be in: ☐ Men's ☐ Women's ☐ Mixed Gender ☐ Tuesday Morning

**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 Adult Bible Study** resumes on **March 10** with the study of the Holy Spirit. Contact Sharon Price if you'd like to join a group (registration form on previous page) if you did not sign up in the fall. **Kid's Club and Breakfast Club** continue to meet on Sunday morning.

The annual **Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night** is on **March 2**. Enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun while supporting the youth's fundraising for their summer trip.

The next **Together in Faith Breakfast** is on **March 3** at 9:15 in the fellowship hall. All are invited to this time of food and fellowship. There will be a presentation about Water is Life, Kenya. Use the sign up poster in the narthex if you can volunteer to bring a breakfast casserole, muffins, donuts, coffee cake or fruit.

The annual **Easter Egg Hunt** is on Sunday March 24. Kids in 5th grade and under, along with their families, are invited to have lunch together and then hunt for eggs. Check out the Mission Kids information for more details.

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.

In February, Mission Kids had a great time helping the Youth Group create beautiful Valentine's Day cards for our homebound members. Thank you, Youth Group, for inviting Mission Kids in on this fun craft!



On March 24<sup>th</sup> we will have the Annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will meet for lunch after the 10:30 AM service and will proceed with the Easter egg hunt. There will be a separate egg hunt for our youngest kids which will include allergy friendly, and non-food treats inside the eggs. Afterwards, we will return to the Fellowship Hall for a fun Easter dessert! Please RSVP for this event so we can plan accordingly for lunch and dessert. Please RSVP to Liz Freburger.

Be on the lookout for these upcoming events!

**April 14<sup>th</sup> – Mission Kids get messy with a group craft project.**

**May 11th – Mission Moms night out!**



Scan here for Egg Hunt  
Information and Sign up!



Thank you for all your support. A special blessing to the Fellowship Committee, Altar Guild, Pastors, Lisa, and all who helped make a very difficult day more bearable. Shawn’s family and friends felt so welcomed.

Arlene Favreau-Pyscher and Mark Favreau and Family

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**Ministries at St. Philip’s from Koinonia**

**Sharon Kittle and Gigi Mueller**

**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 **TBD 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 **TBD at 6:30 pm** at the Mueller. Christian Nationalism will be the topic. Please let Gigi Mueller know if you have any questions and if you are coming. Questions about Koinonia?Contact Sharon Kittle.

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**Ministries at St. Philip’s - Women’s Evening Book Club**

**Dawn Downes and Donna Daugherty**

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:

- March - *The Mountain Sings* by Que Mai Phan Nguyen
- April - *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb (NCC Reads book)

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**Ministries at St. Philip’s - Women’s Daytime Book Group**

**Gigi Mueller**

The **Women’s Daytime Book Group** will be meeting on **Tuesday, March 19th, at 12:30 p.m.**, in the Fellowship Hall, to discuss, **LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY**, by Bonnie Garnus. Please join us!



# Together in Faith

**A Community Learning  
Experience for all Ages**

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

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

- Adults and Youth will share and fellowship
- Kid's Club will meet as usual
- Presentation on "Water is Life, Kenya"
- Sign up Poster in the Narthex for food needed

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



Pastor Amy, Advisors - Mattie and Maranda,  
High Schoolers: Breanna, Ben, Sarah, Jon and Megan







## Synod High School Gathering Feb. 9th—11th in West Virginia



**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, March 20th at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Pinners has received a thank you note from the volunteers and staff of Child Life (Nemours Children's Health) for bags and quilts donated to the patients and families of their hospital. All are welcome to join in continuing this worthwhile work.

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

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**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.

**Help Us Restock the Care Kits for the Homeless** – As you may know, we provide care kits for our members to keep in their cars or wherever to help people in need when we come across them in our daily life. Our supply of care kits are running low and we need help restocking our care kit bags. It's winter, so socks, hats, gloves, band-aids, etc. are needed. There is a bin in the narthex into which you can place all the items you donate. Thank you so much for your care and generosity. A signup for the things we need can be found here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-47073305-homeless>

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**Ministries at St. Philip's****Sally Krapf**

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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 **March 14th 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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**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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**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 **March 12th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

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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>

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<b>Ministries at St. Philip's from Racial Justice Task Force</b>	<b>Phil Duncan</b>
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**SPRING BOOK DISCUSSION**

Sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Force

Sign up for pizza and discussion of this powerful book. Sign up poster in the narthex.

**What:** The Best We Could Do  
**When:** Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
6:30 p.m. -- PIZZA  
7:00 p.m. -- Discussion led by Donna Porter  
**Where:** Fellowship Hall



From the publisher: *The Best We Could Do* ...by Thi Bui is an intimate look at one family's journey from their war-torn Vietnam to their new lives in America. Exploring the anguish of immigration and the lasting effects that displacement has on a child and her family...after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970's...

**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, March 13, 2024 and March 27, 2024**

Thank you to all of you who have contributed food, time, and supplies during St. Philips Family Promise host weeks! Our next host week will be April 7-13 and then again on May 12-18. In the meantime, we will have a Family Promise staff member come to speak at St. Philips during a Lunch and Learn on March 17. We hope you consider joining us as we hear about the mission of Family Promise, updates in programming, and ways we can continue to support this organization. We hope to see many of you on March 17<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service!

In mid-March, there will be sign-up posters in the Narthex with menus listing food you can provide for our April host week. Also at that time, we will email out a Sign-Up Genius link for perishables items which will collected before April 7.

A huge thank you in advance for your continued support. Feel free to contact Rebecca Bardenhagen or Marty Budd with any questions. Blessing to all.

**FAMILY PROMISE**

**Our Next Host Week: April 7, 2024 to April 13, 2024**

## There is Good News!

The good news is that there is good news out there! The bad news is that the “good news” rarely makes the news. Recurring dramatic events and heated words command our attention, and imply that there is little hope for the world, the country, and even our own way of life.

It is not difficult to see why negative impressions develop. Recently, violence between Palestinians and Israelis is a frequent lead story in the media. Verbal and physical attacks against Jews and Muslims receive prominent exposure. Fiery comments about certain groups and their “dangers” draw immediate notice. We hear so much anger, disagreement – even hate – expressed. What to do?

A natural reaction to threat or injury is to take counter measures as quickly as possible. Sometimes the reaction is automatic, as in removing a hand from a hot burner. Sometimes the reaction is more intentional. A verbal insult results in a return insult, a threat generates a counter threat or physical attack. And, of course, a physical attack rarely results in turning the other cheek - and the cycle starts.

In many cases, counter attacks come at a very high cost. “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland between Catholics and Protestants led to many deaths. British rule in India after WW I imposed severe restrictions on civil liberties, leading to the emergence of nationalist groups that attacked the British, leading to British counter attacks and deaths on both sides. South Africa’s Apartheid policy from 1948-1984 severely restricted the lives of black citizens, resulting in widespread violence, sabotage, and deaths.

Things have changed. Though some tensions remain, Northern Ireland Catholics and Protestants are not killing each other. India is free from British rule and the restrictions imposed by it. Economic and social challenges remain, but South Africa eliminated Apartheid as a national policy in favor of a true democracy. How did these changes come about?

Though many factors contributed to change, central to all these changes were efforts to bring opposing groups together through non-violent actions and difficult but clear negotiations about fundamental concerns. The “Troubles” were resolved through a long series of discussions/negotiations among rival factions, sponsored by private and government representatives. Ghandi led non-violent resistance against the British, compelling them to reconsider and eventually end colonial rule and its oppression. After years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandella used his fame to begin peaceful negotiations with the government of South Africa, resulting in the end of Apartheid and its institutions of mistreatment.

Since the 1948 partition of Palestine, Arabs and Jews have been at war off and on to the present day, both arguing the rightness of their cause, and both incurring heavy loss of life generation after generation. Even the suggestion of reconciliation led to the death of Jewish and Arab leaders by extremists among their own people – Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and Yitzhak Rabin of Israel. The present turmoil seems to offer no brighter future.

Yet, even in the midst of animosity, there are ongoing, grassroots efforts to achieve reconciliation and peace in the Middle East. Here are examples stated in their own words:

***Combatants for Peace*** is a grassroots movement of Israelis and Palestinians, working together to end the occupation and bring peace, equality and freedom to our homeland. Committed to joint nonviolence since our inception, we use civil resistance, education and other creative means of activism to transform systems of oppression and build a free and peaceful future from the ground up. Launched in

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2006, we are the only movement worldwide that was founded by former fighters on both sides of an active conflict. As a result, we were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 and 2018. We believe in a future where all people live in peace with dignity, justice, and liberty.

***The Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF)*** is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 600 families, all of whom have lost an immediate family member to the ongoing conflict. Moreover, the PCFF has concluded that the process of reconciliation between nations is a prerequisite to achieving a sustainable peace. The organization thus utilizes all resources available in education, public meetings and the media, to spread these ideas. Let us remember that violence begets violence, and the only way forward is through peaceful dialogue, diplomacy, and a commitment to finding common ground. It is a call to action for leaders, communities, and individuals alike to seek solutions that prioritize reconciliation, justice, and lasting peace.

***Standing Together*** is a grassroots movement mobilizing Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel in pursuit of peace, equality, and social and climate justice. While the minority who benefit from the status quo of occupation and economic inequality seek to keep us divided, we know that we — the majority — have far more in common than that which sets us apart. When we stand together, we are strong enough to fundamentally alter the existing socio-political reality. The future that we want — peace and independence for Israelis and Palestinians, full equality for all citizens, and true social, economic, and environmental justice — is possible. Because where there is struggle, there is hope.

The good news is that these and similar groups are actively collaborating nonviolently to bring about reconciliation and peace. Like other efforts for justice, the timetable for change may be longer than desired, but we can take heart that, like earlier initiatives, their goals can be achieved. Our prayers for peace matter.

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## Ministries at St. Philip's from Habitat Restoration Crew

**Phil and Mary Duncan**

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### Join the HABITAT RESTORATION CREW !

The current project is removing invasive plants and vines from around the trees and in meadow areas.

Upcoming work dates follow a first Saturday, third Wednesday pattern, **10:00 to 12:00** each day. Mark your calendars now!!

**Sat. Mar 2, Wed. Mar 20, Sat. Apr 6, Wed. Apr 17**

Helpful tools to bring: Large loppers, large digging shovels, sturdy hand-held garden pruners, small bow or pruning saw, sturdy leather [or other thorn-resistant] gloves, leaf and grass rakes. Be sure to mark your personal tools.

Contact Phil Duncan to let him know you are coming. He will add your name to the CREW email list so you will receive reminders, directions to help you find our work site, OR notification if cancellation is necessary due to weather or other circumstances.



Thank you to all who have come out to help Phil and Mary Duncan and the whole Environmental Stewardship Team with all the invasive plant removals. We will meet from 10am to noon on the first Saturday and third Wednesday of each month until we have mastered these plants that do not belong on our land. We are hitting them hard and so lowering our costs from service providers through this sweat equity, while the larger removals by Redtail Restoration and Land Management can be accomplished. Regarding indoor efforts, please watch for signs about reusing, repairing, and recycling as well as instructions to better handle our coffee station waste and more...

Remember that these activities are useful at home and other places you frequent besides the church. I am impressed by how many church members have come forward to express their interest in lessening our impact on our environment. Peace and love to all, Port

Ministries at St. Philip's from Habitat Restoration Crew

Phil and Mary Duncan



BEFORE



We rescued several trees from Wild Grape and Multiflora rose vines, dug out a few stumps, and took down some dead/falling over trees.

Lots more to do, of course, but great progress



AFTER







**Lunch and Learn with Family Promise!**  
**Sunday, March 17th**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**  
**11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Join the Outreach committee for a light lunch and a presentation from **Family Promise of Delaware**. Learn about how this program is changing and growing as it serves Delaware families in need of a permanent home.

St Philip's continues to support these families by serving meals and providing basic household items on four host weeks during the year. **Find out how you can get involved!**

Look for the signup poster in the Narthex so we know how many to expect for lunch.



## *Lenten Blessings from LCM at UD!* 🙏

The intensity of March is upon us, bringing a full schedule, mid-term exams, and lots of studying for our students. Nonetheless, they continue to prioritize Christian community and growing in faith. This spring, five students are taking part in our Bible study on the Gospel of Luke, in addition to attending weekly worship. Fun activities over the past month have included ice skating, coffee together at Brew-Ha-Ha, and an afternoon of board games with the "Youtherans" (local Lutheran high schoolers) at our chapel.

Planning is under way for a spring retreat, as well as special May events to honor our four graduating seniors. These wonderful student leaders joined LCM when gatherings needed to be via Zoom all the time. As such, they've brought a unique spirit of gratitude, appreciation, and joy as meals, gatherings, activities, and retreats have been added back, little by little, into the LCM experience during their tenure at UD.

We're looking for new members for our Directing Committee (governing board), as well as for LCM sub-committees like property care and Mutual Ministry. If you have a heart for young adults and would like to get more involved in Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, please reach out. Thank you!

If you'd like to visit LCM this spring for a Tuesday dinner at our lovely chapel at 247 Haines Street, please do. We enjoy spending time with members of local congregations and with other LCM supporters. You might consider teaming up with friends to bring a home-cooked meal for students. For more information, please call our office or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. Our students are always grateful for the dinners and shared fellowship.

Thank you for your ongoing support, care, and prayers! Please continue to pray that our LCM students will daily grow in faith, leadership, discipleship, and service, to the glory of God and for the good of our wider community. Thank you, and God bless you!

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service †  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD  
302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org*

## "The Wonderful World of Snow!"

Inclement weather twice closed the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center in January, but when the kids returned to their classrooms, they made the best of it.



Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, says students “explored the wonderful world of snow! Our Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade friends navigated through snow concepts using literacy. Small groups independently read ‘The First Snowflake’ and shared ways they can possibly help their parents on a snowy day as Shane helped his mom in the book. Our friends were able to build fluency and confidence by repeating the skills and vocabulary from the story.”

Teresa details that students also dove into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) topics. “Youth played with math focused file folder games on fractions, measurement, money, and algebraic thinking. Students also completed targeted math assignments on our online learning platform as well as building with wooden pattern blocks.” Sure beats “see Spot run!”

Meanwhile, Center Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh says Hilltop received a major grant this winter. “The United Way of Delaware awarded Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center \$10,000.00 to implement the Study Break Live program.” Brandon says this is “an original program designed to provide a fun mental health break to high school students while integrating the exploration of post-secondary educational options as well as employment options.” But the program doesn’t stop there. Brandon says “this year, Hilltop will establish a collaboration with Jobs for Delaware Graduates for their job fair on March 26, 2024 at Delaware Technical Community College.”



United Way of Delaware

Finally, in addition to math and literacy, another major part of the mission of the Hilltop Center is feeding those students who are under nourished. Brandon says in January (the latest reporting month), Hilltop provided over 2 thousand “free meals for the Early Learning and Care children through the Child and Adult Care Food Program. We claimed 717 free meals for school aged children.”

*Eric F. Mease  
Member, Board of Directors  
Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center*

## 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, Judi Parsons, John & Barb Williams, Charles & Ruth Bowles, Lois Hardy, John Newcomer, Sr., Carol Ruckle, Lamont & Sharon Smith, Louise James, Ethel Reichley, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sam Cory, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Charlie Boss, Carol Goodman, Dave Frampton, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Tony Calvarese, Elizabeth Stirk, Barbara Stadelberger, John and Kim Longo and Family

***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; Bud & 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 Gible & 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; **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; **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



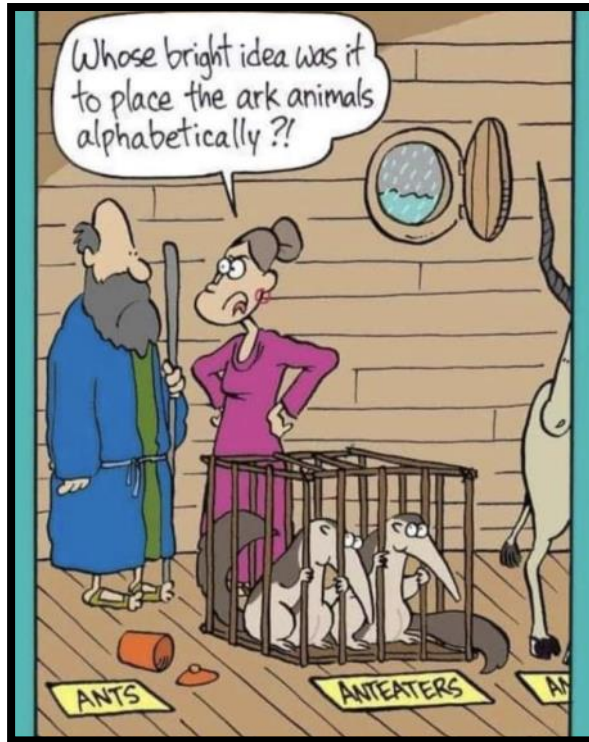


Kim Longo	3/1	Alexis Borrelli	3/16
Donna Blyskal	3/1	Bonnie Sokira	3/17
Nick Cookson	3/2	Elliot Bailey	3/17
Nicholas Florschutz	3/2	Ken Slater	3/18
Rev. Wes Hamlin	3/4	Les Butler	3/21
Matthew Shidner	3/4	Faith Simperts	3/21
Louise James	3/6	Tanner Viering	3/22
Kyle Opderbeck	3/7	Steve Litterst	3/22
Shannon Rosen	3/8	Terace Mignogna	3/23
Michael Pushkarewicz	3/9	Mary Jane Pierce	3/25
Karsten Bardenhagen	3/10	Rebecca Bardenhagen	3/25
Allyson Myers	3/11	Mark Davis	3/26
Dave Thompson	3/11	Ronald Pierce	3/27
Parker Hauser	3/14	Carter Freburger	3/27
Sharon Kittle	3/15	John Swift	3/28
Savannah McDonough	3/15	Cathy Irwin	3/29
Lauren Bailey	3/16	Ingeborg Keith	3/29
Remy David	3/16	Dave Hauser	3/31
Richard Streamer	3/16		

May God Bless You on Your Special Day!



Sunday, March 3, 2024



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  
Amanda DeWeese, Vice President  
Teri Suddard, Treasurer  
Liz Freburger, Secretary  
Mike Berkheimer, Financial Secretary

**Council:**

Coleman Bye  
Carol Johnson  
David Kenney  
Mary Kay LaRue

**Council (continues):**

John Longo  
Debbi Miller  
Dave Porter  
Jim Stevens

**Committees/Activities:**

Altar Guild.....	Carol Oesterbo
Christian Education.....	Sharon Kittle
Enviro. Stewardship.....	David Porter
Fellowship.....	Pam Sheffer
Finance/Audit.....	Coleman Bye
Grocery Club.....	Nancy Zinnato
Habitat Restoration Group	Phil & Mary Duncan
Outreach.....	Susan Mack
Prayer Ministry.....	Contact Church Office
Property.....	Dave Frampton
.....	Mark Myers
Racial Justice Task Force	Phil Duncan
Worship and Music.....	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