

The Guidepost



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



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

What Are Those Yellow Things??

You may have noticed out near the new area being developed for our parking lot that there were some yellow “igloo” looking things. Many have asked what they are - they are part of the underground water management system that is part of the parking lot. You see, the water has to have somewhere to go when it runs off the parking lot. For much of our lot we have the two water retention basins. For this new section we were permitted to use a different system that will catch the water, hold the water, and allow it to be filtered and drain out slowly. Those “yellow things” you see in the parking lot currently are part of that system - a network of cisterns that hold the water until it can be filtered and drained. You should see them getting installed in the next couple of weeks. Keep your eyes peeled . . . We’ll have more pictures soon.



A heartfelt Happy New Year to you all!

What a joy it is to ring in another new year here at St. Philip's! May this year be ever blessed for you and your families!

By the time you read this, I pray you will have had a joyous Christmas celebration! It's a time we remember that God draws near to us and all the world in love in the person of Emmanuel in order to bring us comfort, encouragement, and hope for both this life and the one to come.

As we have entered into this new year, it may already feel like Christmas is over. Certainly the culture has moved on. But I want to encourage us not to just "move on". As one pastor friend of mine put it, "we can't possibly soak in all that the Incarnation means in just one day. And so over the centuries the church appointed "twelve days of Christmas" in which to revel in the good news shared first with shepherds and then all the world."

Christmas is a season, not simply a day, and I must say - I am so grateful for that. May we continue our celebration and study of God's act in the newborn babe of Bethlehem into this new year!

A couple highlights for this new year that I am so excited about (mark your calendars):

- The *Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner* will be here before you know it on Saturday, March 1st from 5-8pm! This is the Youth Group's biggest fundraiser to help cut costs for the phenomenal trips they take that helps to engage their faith and the world. It is a night you will NOT want to miss. Trust me.
- *Pub Theology* (every 3rd Thursday at Chuck Lager from 6:30-8:30pm). All are welcome to join in for conversations about things that matter to us and our faith (and, of course, drink beer)!

God's Peace be with you,

“Great is the art of beginning, but greater is the art of ending.” ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

As I come to the end of my term on Church Council, as well as the end of my experience as Council President, I find myself experiencing all sorts of thoughts and emotions.

I hope I have served St. Phillip’s well. I pray that the work we are doing with the Capital Campaign will bring new members to our church and give the existing members a wonderful feeling about both our growth and our outreach to the community. And most of all, I hope I have in some small way joined with all of you in “making disciples”, “praising God”, and “serving the community”.

The last decade has been challenging for churches everywhere to grow, serve, worship, and, in many cases, even survive. I believe that our church has succeeded in all these things. I am so proud to have had the chance to serve St. Philip’s and to try to help provide direction and focus to our efforts through the work of the Church Council and our Pastors.

In my life, there have been many beginnings and many endings. I have changed my career path, moved to new houses, traveled, served, learned, and, most of all, loved and been loved by family, friends, and fellow parishioners.

This is my final Guidepost article for my term. I can’t begin to express how much our Administrator Lisa, our music and choir directors, Stephen and Lauren, and, of course, Pastors Patrick and Amy have meant to me during this time. And, most of all, YOU—my St. Philip’s family — I am so very grateful.

Thank you, everyone, for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to continuing to worship with you and help in whatever way I can to fulfill the Mission of St. Philip’s.

God bless you all!

New Year – Renewed Hope

Happy New Year! The hope that God offers us is alive and well!

As we enter this New Year, the hope that God offers each of us is not lost, buried deep within legend or lore. It is not something reserved only for the holy, righteous and sin-free. Jesus came to save the lost, broken and discarded, showing us that His living hope is available to all, it is alive and available to us today. His hope assures us that we can trust and believe what God says is true even when we can't see the path ahead. God's living hope strengthens and fights for us as we cling to our faith for dear life.

If you are feeling uncertain about this New Year, take it one step, one moment at a time. The New Year can bring freshness and opportunities to begin anew. Wherever place you find yourself today, let's take this journey side-by-side with Jesus, our God and let him lead the way. Let us look for new opportunities that Jesus places in your heart to love him with renewed hope and trust.

Thank you God for never leaving us and providing us with living and active hope when we need it the most.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

**On Sunday,
January 26, 2025
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
2025 calendar!**



St. Philip's CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION!!

Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

From 2024 Christmas Cantata!



FULL HOUSE!



**GRATEFUL
FOR
STEPHEN
AND
LAUREN!**



**AMAZING
PERFORMANCE!**



12/11/2024

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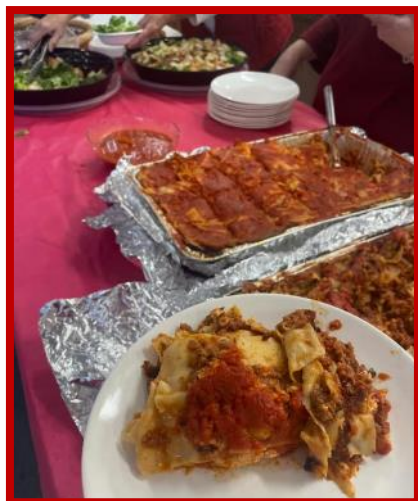
St. Philip's Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report by Major Group
 November of Fiscal Year 2024
 Responsibility: All
Fund: 01 - General

	November Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Percent of Budget
Income				
Group 00	45,188.17	498,917.84	457,433.30	109.07 %
Total Income	45,188.17	498,917.84	457,433.30	109.07 %
Expense				
Administration	2,765.15	33,446.14	34,741.74	96.27 %
Committees	19,337.25	175,877.89	173,680.76	101.27 %
Pastor	10,860.70	119,356.26	120,781.76	98.82 %
Staff	17,223.73	186,994.95	188,010.90	99.46 %
Utilities	1,292.84	17,781.10	21,266.63	83.61 %
Benevolence	1,458.33	16,041.63	16,041.63	100.00 %
Total Expense	52,938.00	549,497.97	554,523.42	99.09 %
Income Less Expense	-7,749.83	-50,580.13	-97,090.12	



O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, January 14th. This group is geared towards retirees in the congregation that would like to engage in a time of food, fellowship, and light learning. The next meeting will be held **January 14th from 11:30 am to 1 pm**. Amy Papili will be our speaker. She will be discussing Computer Safety!! Especially in this time when there are so many computer and internet scams, laws will be changing in 2025 regarding privacy and safety. Come to hear how to operate more safely online as things speed up with technology each year. Bring your own lunch and we'll provide the fellowship and learning. See you then!!

From O.W.L.S - Christmas Party!





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 this month from 6:30-8:30pm on Thursday, January 16th! It's every 3rd Thursday of the month, and for this month, it will be back at Chuck Lager's (right down from the church)!

ALL are welcome at any time! You won't want to miss this!

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!





Mission Kids finished the year with two favorite annual events: Friendsgiving and Advent Workshop.

On November 23rd, over 25 people enjoyed food, friends, and fellowship while the holiday music was playing. Each year we love to see our group grow and evolve with new and familiar faces.

In December, the kids learned about the Advent season with the story God Gave us Christmas. With help from the youth group members, the kids enjoyed listening to a story, playing pass the parcel (a Bluey favorite), making a craft, assembling trail mix to take home, and enjoying a snack. The kids are anxiously awaiting Christmas!!!

The 2025 Mission Kids Calendar is set! All families are welcome at our events. We try to plan activities that will accommodate children of all ages, so even if you've never attended, please consider joining us in 2025! The next few events are:

January 26th 5-7pm @ Mexican Table (Mission Moms Night Out)- Moms, this night is for you. Decompress from the post-holiday chaos and join us for a fun dinner without kids!

February 9th noon-1:30 in Fellowship Hall (Valentine's Card making)- We will join the Youth Group and make valentine's card for our homebound church members.

March 8th 4-6pm in Fellowship Hall (Mission Kids Get Messy)- Join us for dinner and a fun handprint craft!

Friendsgiving - Mission Kid's - Food, Fun and Friends



Youth Group Babysitting Service Project - Raising Money for Hilltop Gifts!!!



Advent Workshop 2024!



Advent Fun!





HELP BUILD OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH!

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

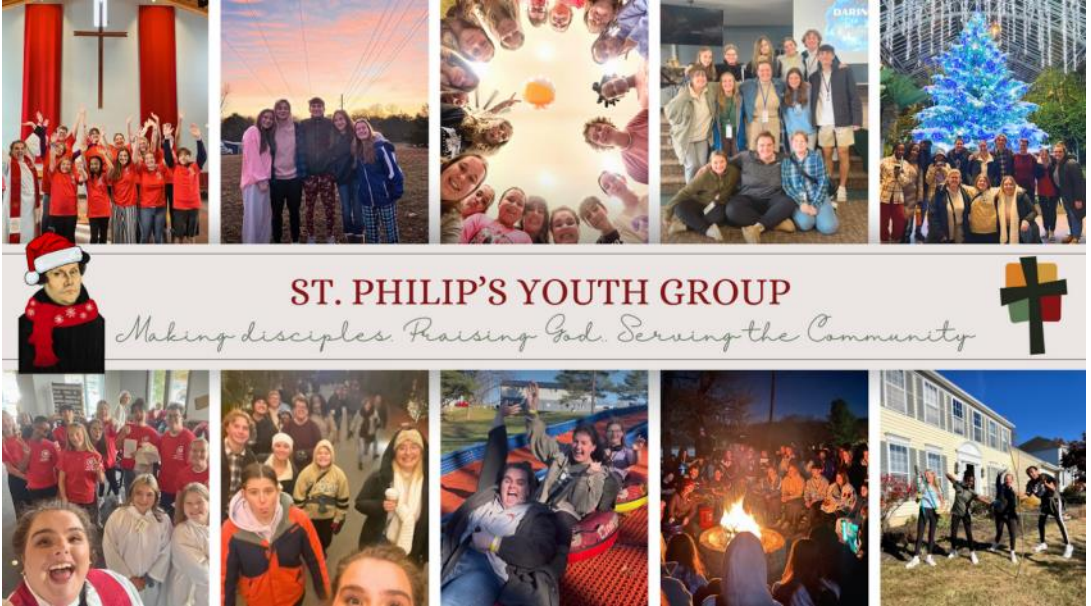
The **nursery** is open during both services on Sunday morning and during the Christian Ed hour in between. Contact Maryann Shovestul if you have any questions.

There is no Christian Ed on January 5th. All programming (**Kid's Club, Breakfast Club and Adult Study**) will resume on January 12th at 9:15 a.m.

Adults will begin a winter **Large Group Video Series** on January 12th. The series will run from January 12th - February 23rd in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Patrick will lead this Adam Hamilton series about Moses. Everyone is invited to attend; if you can not attend all of the sessions drop in whenever you can. More detailed information about the series is on the following pages.

Check out separate pages in the Guidepost for **Mission Kids** and **Youth Group** January activities.

Check out the Lending Library in Rooms 128 and 129, 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.



January 2025

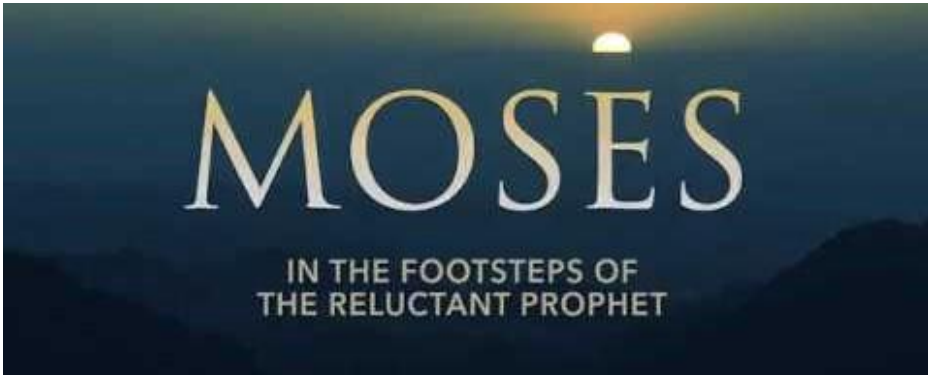
- January 5 - Ice Skating + UDairy Ice Cream (12:30-3:30pm)
- January 12 – Driving Scavenger Hunt (6-8pm)
- January 19 - No Youth Group
- January 26 – Cooking Class TBD

February 2025

- February 2 – Skyzone
- February 9 - Valentine's Day Service Project (12-3:30pm)
- February 16 – Dog Treats for the SPCA
- February 23 – No Youth Group

March 2025

- March 1 – Spaghetti Dinner + Bingo Night



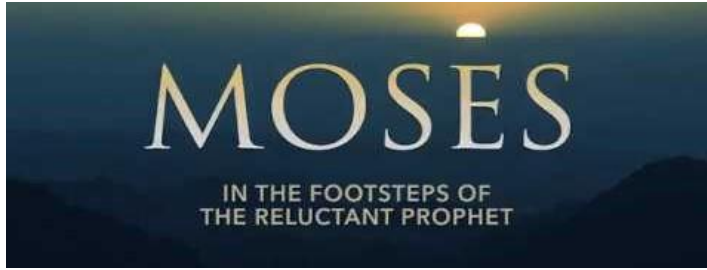
**Join us For A Special Winter Video Series Journey
Alongside the first Biblical Prophet, Moses**

On Sunday Mornings January 12 - February 23, 2024 at 9:15 am
Classes will be held in the Social Hall Led By Pastor Patrick
and are all about The Life and Impact of the Prophet, Moses.

The Birth of Moses
Two Moments that Defined the Man
The Exodus
The Ten Commandments
Lessons from the Wilderness
Don't forget . . . Pass it On
The Legacy of Moses

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





Session 1 January 12th: The Birth of Moses

We know the story, but what were the significant details of Moses birth and raising?

Session 2 January 19th: Two Moments that Defined the Man

Moses may have been born an Israelite, but two things change the course of his life and the salvation history of an entire people,

Session 3: January 26th: The Exodus

The most significant event in the history of Moses' people.

Session 4 February 2nd: The Ten Commandments

Laws to be sure, but more a sense of commitment to each other.

Session 5 February 9th: Lessons from the Wilderness

What we do in life when we are "going nowhere."

Session 6 February 16th: Don't Forget . . . Pass it On

The events in the wilderness have shaped the Jewish People.

Session 7 February 23rd: The Legacy of Moses

The Enduring Impact of Moses on People of Faith

From Youth Group Events: Blind Taste Testing, Pumpkin Carving, Fall Clean-up



LONGWOOD
GARDENS



From Youth Sunday/Together in Faith - Pastor Amy





The Daytime Book Group will next meet on Tuesday, January 21st at 12:30 p.m. Our book for discussion is FROZEN RIVER, by Ariel Lawhon. February 18th will be MYSTERY OF MRS CHRISTIE, by Marie Benedict. March 18th will be HOME-FRONT, by Kristin Hannah, and April 15th is THE SILENT PATIENT.

The Young at Heart Group will be meeting on **Saturday, January 18, 2025, 1:30-3 p.m.**, at Gigi's. New people are always welcome! Please RSVP to Gigi.

Women, Wine, and Whine - Just booked our next wine social gathering for Sunday afternoon, **January 19th, from 2 to 5 p.m.**, at **Acadian Winery in West Grove**. There will be music!

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. **Our next meeting is January 10th.** 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!

On the 12th Day of Christmas, we celebrate Epiphany, which brings to close the Christmas season in the church. Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th, traditionally the day that we remember the wisemen coming to worship the newborn king of the Jews, baby Jesus. These magi were gentiles, not Jews, which is a very important event, the message of the Savior being revealed to the entire world, not just the chosen people, the Jews. What an enlightenment! Epiphany is a season of Light.

But, there is a dark side to Epiphany, also. The magi came to King Herod in Jerusalem, assuming that the new king of the Jews would be there. That wasn't the case and it angered King Herod that signs were indicating that there was a new king of the Jews that wasn't from his family, but was in or near Bethlehem. King Herod told the wisemen to go and find the new king and then tell him who it was so that he could "worship" the new king. We all know the story, that the magi didn't go back to King Herod, but went home a different way, after worshipping Jesus and giving him gifts. The darkness came into the story when King Herod ordered the murder of all boy children under the age of two. What darkness and pain there must have been in the Bethlehem area after that massacre.

An angel warned Joseph, so they escaped to Egypt. Our Savior, the King of all and Light of the world started his life as a refugee. He was a political victim of hatred. It is comforting to know that Jesus endured a life filled with dark times, as well as positive times of light. He understands the dark times in our lives and he brings light and peace to us to comfort us.

The word Epiphany means "a showing forth" or "a revealing." An epiphany is a "flash of light" that suddenly reveals something to you. Just as the real nature of Baby Jesus was revealed to the magi, there are other epiphany moments that we celebrate in the season of Epiphany.

We celebrate the baptism of Jesus, during which his God nature was revealed. *"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"* Matthew 3:16-17

This year, we will celebrate Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana, in which he turned water into wine. We will hear about Jesus, as he read from the book of Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth. He read, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." Jesus then said that the scripture was fulfilled that day. We will also celebrate when Jesus revealed his God nature to the fishermen, who became his disciples because they realized that he was the Lord. We will conclude the Epiphany season with Jesus healing the crowds and teaching them life lessons, which revealed his God nature to many.

Epiphany is a season which reveals the God nature of Jesus. This will prepare us for Lent, in which we will follow Jesus as he prepares to accomplish the plan of salvation for which he was sent to earth as a man. Jesus is shown to us as man, as well as God.

Stephen Ministry Training - Have you ever thought about wanting to help people during their times of need but didn't know what to say or how to help? That is what Stephen Ministers do for us here at St. Philip's. If you might have interest in serving one another in that way, there will be a Stephen Ministry training class starting in January of 2025 and running through April. If you are interested in being a part or just in getting more information let Gigi Mueller (Stephen Leader) know.

Shepherding Team
The next
Shepherds meeting **Monday,**
February 3rd @
1 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall.



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! The **first Koinonia Group** that meets at St. Philip's will be **meeting, Sunday, January 12th at 6:30 p.m.** we will be studying the book of Parables. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. A **second group** that meets with the Mueller's will meet on **Sunday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mueller's home.** We are going to read Luke in one sitting ahead of time and discuss. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.



New Supplies needed for Care Kits for the Homeless. As the seasons are changing our winter kits need to be refreshed with new supplies. Please consider signing up below to help replenish supplies. Also, kits can be found under the coat rack in the narthex. Consider picking up one or two to share with homeless persons you may encounter in your travels.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-53363560-homeless>

Ministries available at St. Philip's

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 9th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in the Social Hall here at church. If you are interested in being a part or learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

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.



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 14th 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 8, 2025 and January 22, 2025

From Outreach - Hilltop Christmas Gift Pile - Susan Mack and Elizabeth Stirk



St. Philip's

Thanks for the generosity!

Family Promise - St. Philips Next Host Week: January 19th -25th

Many thanks to all of you who contributed food, time, and supplies during St. Philips Family Promise host week in November! We fed a total of 35 people which included 11 adults, 23 children, and 1 infant. The families were very appreciative for all the food and attention given to them during the week. Our next host week will be January 19-25. Sign up posters will be in the Narthex with menus listing food you can provide in late December. Below is a Sign-Up Genius link for those who are able to contribute non-perishable items.

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-54055916-family>

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Feel free to contact Rebecca Bardenhagen or Marty Budd with any questions. Blessings to all

FAMILY PROMISE

The week of: January 19, 2025 to January 25, 2025



From Altar Guild Committee - Carol Oesterbo

Every year we provide the members the chance to sign up 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 sign up 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 2025 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/30E0848A9AE29A57-52711374-flower#/>

From Daytime Book Group Christmas Party - Gigi Mueller

CHRISTMAS PARTY!



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 of each month** pattern, **10:00 a.m. to Noon.** each day. Mark your calendars now!! 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.

Great things are happening in St. Philips' backyard, and if you look a bit to the left of the graded area that will be the parking lot extension, you will see a bit of metal gleaming in the sun. These are cages protecting 25 newly planted native trees in an area recently cleared through the combined efforts of the Habitat Restoration Crew and Redtail Restoration workers. Now we cross our fingers for continued rains through the winter months and anticipate signs of new growth in the spring. Oh, you will also see a newly-planted wee tree in the circle at the south end of the current parking lot. Cheers!

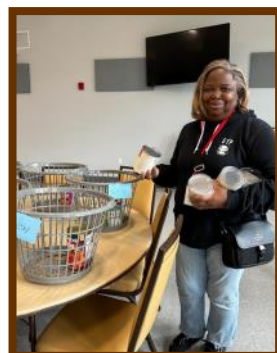


From Grocery Club - Hilltop Thanksgiving Baskets - Nancy Zinnato and Elizabeth Stirk



**HILLTOP AND GROCERY CLUB VOLUNTEERS PUT TOGETHER
90 THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED.**

**THANK YOU TO THE ST. PHILIP'S CONGREGATION
FOR THE DONATIONS AND TO THE VOLUNTEERS
FOR PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER!**



From Grocery Club - Hilltop Thanksgiving Baskets - Nancy Zinnato and Elizabeth Stirk

Thanksgiving
Baskets



Thanksgiving
Baskets



Thanksgiving
Baskets



ENKARE ENKISHUI - WATER IS LIFE

Thanks to the generous support from all of you, an early Christmas present for St Luke's School and Inkisanjani in Kenya! December 5th was the big day – the drilling team hired by WILK hit water!

Aaron Lemma from WILK shared the news:

"I come bearing GOOD NEWS. There's a saying in Kenya: "*pole pole*," which translated means "slowly, slowly." Often, our work in Kenya is very stop-and-go with delays and setbacks. We consider this to be God's timeline. But, sometimes, things SPEED UP.

"This morning, Joyce called our Kenyan co-founder, Joseph Larasha, for an update. Larasha and our WILK team met up with the drilling team earlier today in Inksanjani. He described how, as the drilling rig was making its way to the drill site, it got stuck. The first delay. *Pole pole*. After some MacGyvering, they eventually got unstuck and kept moving. They made their way to the site, set up the rig, and got to work. The first few meters of drilling were DUSTY. Sometimes dust can complicate the drilling process and cause problems later on. Would this be another *pole pole* drill? And then, while they were on the phone, Larasha exclaimed, "WOOOOOOOW!!!" Right then and there, at 8:05 AM EST, after 6 drilling rods and 30 meters of drilling, we hit FIRST WATER!

ENKARE ENKISHUI - WATER IS LIFE!

"This was a SUBSTANTIAL first surge of water -- a good sign! You'll see green grass in the pictures. That's because it's been raining in Kenya. This first surge is likely from a collection site that has been filled since the recent rain. We'll be sure to keep drilling down so we can tap into a deeper collection site, ensuring this water is abundant even during the dry season. While the drilling isn't finished, today, December 5, 2024, is a day for your St. Philip's Family to celebrate, give thanks, and PRAISE GOD. God's Goodness is always present, right below the surface, waiting for us to tap into it and unleash it as a blessing to others.

Plenty of work ahead, but soak in the goodness of this moment. **YOU made this happen!**"

Joyce shared with us later the same day: 30,000 liters per hour!

"The report from Laarasha at the end of their work day today is that they reached 100 meters in the drilling and they eyeball estimated the borehole yield to be 30,000 liters per hour so far. That IS AMAZING!!!! To God be all thanks and glory!!! Tomorrow they will continue to 130 meters and then they will do the casing design (the permanent pipes that remain in the borehole) and then they will deliver the casing and install it. Then, in the next few days another team will come to do 24 hour test pumping to know yield and water quality. Thanks to you all for prayers and generous support!"

December 10 Update from Joyce: the borehole reaches 130 meters

"I have good news for you about the Inkisanjani Borehole. The borehole drilling was concluded at 130 meters, as predicted. Everything went smoothly and quickly. Just as a comparison, the drilling of our last borehole in Olmoti took us 6 days for 100 meters! It was technically tough, but Inkisanjani was smooth and easy! In addition, the well produces A LOT of water. According to Larasha, it increased in volume as they went towards 130 meters. The test pumping will measure the borehole yield and a water sample will be taken to the laboratory. After drilling was completed on Friday, the borehole was "developed" or cleaned, then the permanent steel pipes were installed in the borehole. It is a combination of plain and slotted (perforated) casing. The slotted casing are placed where the aquifers are and allow the water to come into the pipe to be pumped up.

"This is in preparation for the 24-hour test pumping exercise which is scheduled for tomorrow Wednesday - Thursday morning. This is always a great and exciting time where people crowd around to drink, fill water containers to take home, use the water to wash clothes. They may also dig a temporary trough for livestock to come and drink. Today we will hear if the water tastes salty or not.

"The borehole is on the [St. Luke's] school property, but the students are at home for their end of schoolyear holidays, so they won't be around to see it. But when school re-opens in January they will come back to a school with WATER!"

December 12 report from Joyce: the water is clear and delicious!

"We have good news from the results of the test pumping. First, the water is not salty. It is clear and delicious. We hear more precise info from the results from the water quality analysis in a few weeks. Second, the water was pumping 30,000 liters per hour yesterday. This is 7925 gallons per hour or 132 gallons per minute, and is a fantastic result. Congratulations! Thanks be to God and thanks for your prayers....So exciting for this community and they are looking to a better, cleaner, healthier, prosperous future, thanks to the generosity of your loving St. Philip's community! Thank you and God bless you all!"

WHAT COMES NEXT? The work continues as water testing is completed and the pump and infrastructure are constructed at the borehole site. More to come as construction proceeds!

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Join us on Saturday January 11th for Kenyan Culture Night! See the event notice and link to signup in Guidepost and weekly emails.

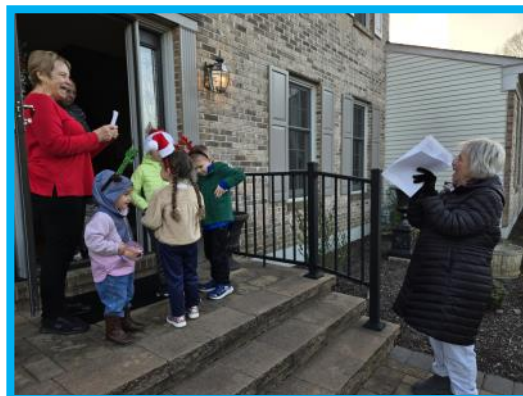


From WILK - Susan Mack



Kenya Culture Night - Want to know more about Kenya and the Water is Life Kenya water project St. Philip's is sponsoring? The WILK Committee is hosting a Kenyan Cultural Night on **January 11 at 5:00-8:00pm**. All are welcome to gather beginning with a traditional dinner of beef stew and goat stew along with sides (please feel free to bring food along for yourself or children if you feel this may not be to your liking). Following dinner there will be an exciting night filled with singing, dancing, games, crafts and more! Please RSVP to let us know if you are coming so we can have enough food. **The deadline to signup is January 5th.** To signup, use this link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-53718961-wilk>

From Outreach - Christmas Caroling



Perfect Timing!

First of all, Happy New Year from the staff, students, and board of directors of the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center! We are praying for a good one.



Back in November, the Hilltop Center began preparing for the holidays with a theme of “Wellness and Nutrition.” Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, says activities took a holistic approach. “Lessons focused on educating youth about correct food portions, what foods should be included as part of a healthy diet, and living a healthy lifestyle. Youth were led in interactive social emotional lessons using their mind and body to practice personal interaction skills.”

During another week, students were given a choice of activity centers: the Center’s gym, the game room, or the multipurpose room. Teresa reports that the multipurpose room was very popular. Why? Because one of the teachers was holding a cooking class there.

“She created a kid friendly snack with the group to share. One week she made a chocolate Acorn treat, that one of her students liked so much she went home and made the treat with her family. She brought Ms. Cara (the instructor) some of what her family made the following Monday. These are the moments that make our staff feel good about what we are doing.”

Finally, the Hilltop Center is ramping up its literacy and math skills programs. Teresa says both were done in a kid’s fun way. “Literacy based games were made available for the students to play with peers while staff checked in and provided support when needed. Highlighted books of the month were: Grab & Go games, Miss Bernard is a wild Card, and Antonyms Bingo.”

Teresa says activity over at the math station included, “cards and board games, building blocks and Legos, Number Park, Logic Roots, File folder games, and Sequence for Kids, Sums in space-Money Operations.”



Fun ways to learn reading and math. Wish they had been around back in the day! Good job, everyone!

Eric F. Mease
Member, Board of Directors


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, Carol Ruckle, Sharon Smith, Louise James, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Dave Frampton, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Elizabeth Stirk, Paul & Barbara Stadelberger, Jeff Stirk, Charlie Boss, Debra Gelesh, Richard Braun, Ellen Lenker, Janette Saxton, Phyllis Bolgiano, Donna Daugherty, Yvonne Cilento, Shelly Meador, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, John Reichley, Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pyscher, Suzanne Bradley

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; Sgt. Tyler Harris**, nephew of Susan Mack; **Ruth DiDonato, Family of Earl & Irene Meyer, Christina Ruble & Family**, 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; **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 Simpser; **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; **David Martin, Diane Balinski, Debra Jennings, & Barney Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Jermaine & Joslyn Sanders**, friends of Nancy Zinnato; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family of Mark & Marge Davis; **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; **The Family of Robert Schuh**, family of Diana Longhenry; **Martin Page & Family**, friends of Mike Rosen; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Alistair Black**, grandson of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Mike & Jeanie Kelly**, friends, & **Family of Rosemary Herron**, Loved ones of Edna Basilio; **Carol Henzy**, sister of Beth Molnar; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman; **Henry Houtmann**, grandson & **Doris S. & Kathleen K.**, friends of Anne Hamilton; **Frank Kulick**, brother of Ruth Bowles; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak; **Michele Levanduski**, Family of Paul Gelesh; **Kristi Barnett**, friend of Angela Klemens; **Rick Ricciardi**, brother of Nancy Warner; **Henry Jones**, father of Derrick Thompson, **Carla Solano and Family**, cousin of Bonnie Anderson; **Michelle Nevins**, wife of David Nevins; **Craig Florschutz**, husband of Jennifer Florschutz; **Mark Doyle**, friend of Harold and Sharon Holean; **Mark & Jeanne Favreau**, family of Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pyscher



Happy Birthday from your Church Family!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ian Stirk	1/2
JoanMarie Powers	1/2
Bonnie Anderson	1/3
Tom Brenneman	1/3
Sharon Mutschler	1/3
Franklin Anderson	1/7
Richard Pierce	1/7
David Viering	1/7
Monika Daugherty	1/9
Nina Boyer	1/9
Barbara Stadelberger	1/12
Witold Brick	1/16
Dakota Gladfelter	1/17

Lana Borrelli	1/18
Benjamin Rosen	1/19
Clara Simperts	1/20
Lori Gregg	1/21
Ryan Zinnato	1/23
Mattie Mason	1/27
Marion Santak	1/27
Bill Cox	1/28
Cindi Hoyt	1/28
Danielle Bye	1/29
Emma Malatesta	1/30
Amy Papili	1/30
Alice Downes	1/31
Janette Saxton	1/31

May God Bless You on Your Special Day!



January



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
John Longo

Council (continues):

Debbi Miller
Dave Porter
Mike Rosen
Jim Stevens

Committees/Activities:

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

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

Louise James

Address Service Requested

Website: www.stphilips.us

Phone: (302) 239-2100

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

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