

The Epistle

St. Philip Lutheran Church

January 2018

Pastor's Message

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Happy New Year! Well, my brothers and sisters in Christ, 2017 is behind us. It has passed away and will never return. Looking back on 2017, I give thanks for God's ongoing presence, renewed health, an amazing family, dedicated partners in ministry and the ministry we share.

It has been a transformative year for me personally and for our congregation. We've experienced changes in our membership and in how ministry happens at St. Philip. God has blessed us through all those who call St. Philip their faith community; and through our willingness to grow in faith and love as we gathered for worship, pondered Big Questions, engaged in Bible studies and Sunday school, shared fellowship, strengthened our music ministry, and served our neighbors.

A new year is upon us and, while I'm not sure what 2018 will look like, I am certain that God is doing a new thing among us. Here are some questions that I invite you to ponder as we discern God's vision for our congregation:

- How will you join in the work that God is already doing in and through us?
- What are some ways that you can use your gifts and skills to strengthen the ministry we share?
- What ideas do you have for how we can more fully be the congregation that God is calling us to be?

I'd love to hear your responses to these questions as you consider how God is making all things new in your life and in our faith community.

One last question, will you join with me in prayer every day at 10:00 am as we seek God's guidance? I'm setting an alarm on my phone to remind me to pray and invite you to do the same. No matter where you, simply pause to give thanks for our faith community and ask for God's blessing and guidance for St. Philip.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry,

Pastor Pam



Save the Date! Sunday, January 14, 2018 -

A commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Service of Holy Communion will be hosted by the Triangle Conference of Lutheran Churches.

There is no better way to honor Dr. King's faithfulness than by gathering together in worship: hearing the Word and sharing the Lord's Supper as One Body in Christ.

Come join in this worship service on
3:00 on January 14, 2018 at
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
2723 Clark Ave, Raleigh, NC 27607.



Director of C.M.S.M.'s Message

(Children & Middle School Ministries)

Early in January, just after the Epiphany of Our Lord, we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. This is an event that is echoed throughout the liturgy of our church; from our own baptisms to the funeral liturgy, we are reminded who we are by pairing our baptism with that of Jesus.

As we remember the Baptism of Our Lord - and our own - look for ways to support one another and look for ways to be supported. Watch for opportunities to hear and see the faith of our children and think about ways to tell your own faith story, you never know who might need to hear it.

Calling all families with younger children! I am in the process of scheduling some opportunities to get to know you while we play together. Watch your email for information and let me know if you have any suggestions!

Calling families with elementary age children! I thoroughly enjoyed our almost-lock-in and will be emailing soon with some possible events so we can get to know each other better. Be on the lookout to help plan our upcoming fun!

Pastor Elizabeth Neely



Vicar's Message

Christmas has come and gone. We have celebrated the birth of Christ and moved on into celebration of the Wise Ones and how people from all over – from outside the traditionally established faith groups of the day – joined in worshipping Jesus the Son of God. Part of my personal Christmas and Epiphany journey is discernment around whether I might have the callings, skills and qualifications to become a mission developer. Mission outreach has been part of my path since my earliest memories and the thought that this long, winding path I have been traveling might end up with me in that role is exciting and nerve-wracking and daunting and delightful all at once.

Even if we do not all have calls to be full-time, professional mission developers in the church, we are all called to be mission developers in one way or another. In the Great Commission Jesus instructs us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

We are all called to make disciples by living a life that points to Christ, and accompanying others in the community on that journey. We are all called to support others in their journey to baptism, in which we are received into the body of Christ by water and the Word. We are all called to accompany others in our community in their post-baptism journey to learn to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves.

How exactly are we to do these impossible things? By remembering that Jesus is with us to the end of the age. Jesus is walking with us, loving us, guiding us, and caring for us. I am honored and profoundly grateful to be walking on this journey in the company of the people of St. Philip Lutheran Church.

Your companion on the journey,
Vicar Sharon

BREAKING NEWS! READ ALL ABOUT IT! BREAKING NEWS! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Instead of the book on Radical Hospitality as announced earlier, the Small Groups starting in January will be discussing "Fearless Conversation: How Can We Be Fully Faithful When We're Fully Flawed?"

Are you yearning to talk more about the hard questions... questions like—

“What do I do when God’s people are enemies of each other?”

“Why is God so violent?”

“If God forgives me, then why do I still get punished for my sins?”

“What do I do with my sorrow?”

In your small group Fearless Conversations, you will have a chance to wonder about those hard questions while staying firmly grounded in the Bible. There is room for everyone in these discussions and everyone will be encouraged to ask your questions and think about answers to those questions in the context of Scripture.

Come join the Fearless Conversation. You will be glad you did!

Small groups will be meeting at 11:30 am and 7:30 pm on Mondays, starting January 22, and at 6:20 on Wednesdays, starting January 24. If those times do not work for you, make a note on the sign up sheet and we will work on organizing another group. Either way, please sign up at the welcome center so we can make sure to have plenty of materials for everyone.

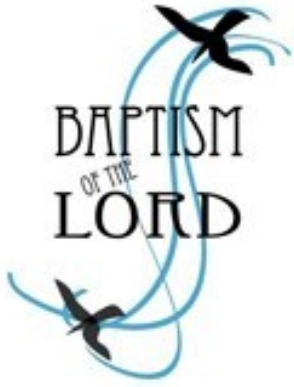


Triangle Women’s Interfaith Group (TWIG)

Would you like to meet and get to know women of other faiths in the Triangle area, but just don’t know how? TWIG is a grassroots group of women from various faith backgrounds who would like to do just this! One woman in our fledgling group shared that we can start a ‘movement’ for positive connections among women of faith in our community. There has never been a more important time than now for this to happen.

Our hope is that this group can become a communication hub, leading to ways for interfaith women to gather and socialize. Offerings could cover a variety of topics and interests throughout the year. It will be up to the members to create these opportunities, where other members can pick and choose the events that are of interest to them and work within their schedule. This group is a place for women who are inspired to lead and have gifts and talents, to initiate events through this portal through the year, with at least a few events a year being simply large social gatherings for all the members.

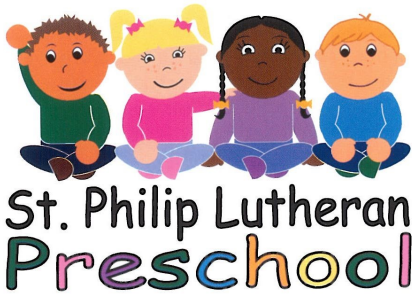
We encourage you to pass along the invitation and announcements to all the women in your faith community. To be clear, this is strictly an interfaith social group, with some potential for us to take a deeper dive within some activities, to learn about each other’s faiths. The goal is to encourage understanding of each other’s beliefs, and not to proselytize in any way. [Please click here to visit the website.](#)



On Sunday, January 7, at both services we will be celebrating the festival of the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. This is a perfect way for us to acknowledge the Day of the Epiphany (January 6) where the church celebrates the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations and enter into the season of the Sundays after the Epiphany. The word epiphany can mean a manifestation, a sudden appearance, particularly of a deity, or a sudden insight. The epiphany on January 6th is the Spirit of God appearing on the scene as Jesus is baptized, descending in the form of a dove and heard in a voice from heaven (Matt. 3:16-17).

In our lives, God's appearance is rarely as obvious or overt. God's presence can be seen in forgiveness offered after an argument. It can be a sense of peace in spite of bad news delivered by a doctor. It can be the comfort of a hug from a child. What are the little epiphanies made possible by the big epiphany of the God who comes to us through Jesus?

We will begin worship on this day with a thanksgiving for baptism. Then following the sermon, we will join together in affirming our baptisms. In this way we begin this new year of grace by remembering and celebrating the gift of baptism and praying for the Holy Spirit to continue to stir up God's gifts in all the baptized. Hope to see you in worship!



The preschool children enjoyed celebrating the week before their Christmas break with a birthday party for Jesus *and* they enjoyed singing about Jesus for their family and friends at our Christmas program on December 15th. Their sweet voices filled the sanctuary with lots of love, JOY and smiles!!

You are always welcomed to join us for our programs or just stop by for a little visit....and BIG hugs too!!

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year begins January 2nd for preschool families and church members. It will open up to the public on January 9!! We would like to fill our classes to capacity so please tell your friends and neighbors to come and visit us at the preschool.

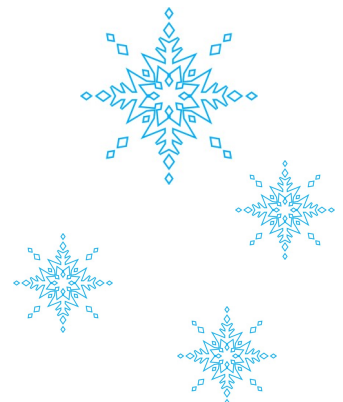


Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00—Crossing Contemporary
Worship with Holy Communion

10:10—Sunday School for all ages

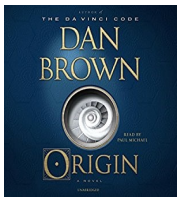
11:00—Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion



Senior Adult Book Club

The Senior Ministry Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 10:00am in the church Parlor. We welcome anyone interested in reading and discussing books.

The next book that we are reading is *Origin*, A Novel by Dan Brown.



Origin is a 2017 science fiction mystery thriller. The fifth novel in his Robert Langdon series, following

Angels & Demons, *The Da Vinci Code*, *The Lost Symbol*, and *Inferno*.

Origin, A Novel is available at the Wake County Library.

If you have questions, please contact [Kathryn Edwards](#) or [Carol Williamson](#).

What's so important about Small Groups?

Relationships are the core of faith communities and the care that they offer. We need each other. We need to connect with each other beyond a simple "hello." We need to feel like we belong, that we are important, that we are loved, and that we are missed when we're absent. We need to be more intentional about interacting with each other! This is where small groups become important.

Since I began my call at St. Philip, we've gathered in small groups. We've called them different names and gathered around different topics. There were the Unbinding Your Heart small groups, Faith Building small groups, Unbinding Your Soul small groups, and the small group that is exploring Rob Bell's book "Love Wins." These small groups are and have been life-giving to those who participate.

I believe that small groups have the potential to strengthen our congregation. But they can only do so if everyone makes an intentional decision to participate in one. The best small groups consist of a wide variety of people: people from both worshipping assemblies, people of different ages, people who know one another, and people who are just beginning to know others in the congregation.

Here are my top 5 reasons small groups are important to the health of St. Philip:

- 5: They provide a safe place to share our burdens and receive encouragement from one another.
- 4: They generate opportunities to talk about our faith and hear others speak about their faith.
- 3: They enable us practice spiritual disciplines like prayer and bible study.
- 2: They inspire a sense of belonging to the faith community.
- 1: They build deeper relationships in the congregation.

We have small groups organizing in January. My hope is that you will choose to participate in one of them. More information is included in another article in this newsletter. If you'd like to participate but none of the published times work for you, please let me know so that we can work together to find a time that will work.

Let's come together in small groups to build up the Body of Christ to the Glory of God!

Pastor Pam



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

All Classes Meet at 10:10—10:50

- **0-2 year olds:** Nursery is offered during the SS hour.
- **2's-PreK:** Meet in the **blue room**, Education Bldg.
- **K-2nd:** Meet in the **red room**, Education Bldg.
- **3rd-5th:** Meet in the **purple room**, Education Bldg.
- **Confirmation (6th-7th):** Basement, Education Bldg.
- **Post-Confirmation (8th-12th):** Meet in the basement, Education Bldg.
Real life faith talk in a spiritually & emotionally safe setting. Some silly stuff too!!
- **Augsburg Sunday School** - This adult class uses the quarterly Augsburg Bible Study guide to study a wide range of biblical books and themes. Writers with established reputations in biblical scholarship provide thorough, in-depth Bible studies. **This winter the theme is *Faith in Action***, exploring scripture passages from Daniel, Matthew, Acts, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Timothy and James to guide the discussions. This class meets in the Library.
- **Faith & Fellowship Sunday School** - Starting January 8, Faith and Fellowship will be studying the draft version of the ELCA social statement on women and justice. God's intention for humanity is abundant life for all regardless of gender and sex. There is much happening all around us that make the rights and needs of women a timely topic for thoughtful conversation and theological discernment. All are welcome to join the conversation. At the end of the class, participants will be encouraged to offer thoughts and feedback that will then be considered for inclusion in the final version of the statement. Come discuss a topic critical to our time and make your voice heard. A brief synopsis of the draft document is here: [ELCA Women and Justice](#) or [full document](#).

There's a place for you in Sunday School!



Sub Sales February 4th



Who makes the best subs in the world?
It is the St. Philip Youth!!
Sign up now for your sub!



Free will donations are welcome and any proceeds will go toward supporting
Brown Bag and Refugee Ministries here at St. Philip!

Be sure to mark on the order form if you would like to pick up your sub at
9:00, 10:10, or 12:00pm.

Return completed order forms (on page 12), to the marked file outside of Cathryn's office,
the Gathering Room, across from the library or
return your order via e-mail to me cathryn@st-philip.org.

Men's Pub Ministry

Our next get together will be on Tuesday, January 23rd at Saints & Scholars Pub at 6:30 pm.

Men's Pub Ministry is an opportunity for men in the congregation to meet and socialize once a month. We select places where we can talk and have a beer or other beverage and, perhaps, a meal.

All men are welcome, hope to see you there!



Women's Fellowship Group

We gather together once a month inviting women of the congregation to come for good food, fellowship & conversation.

The meeting place for January 23rd at 6:30 is the Twisted Fork at Triangle Town Center

Contact Carol Rogers for more information at parakayaker@gmail.com



Saints & Sinners

Come join the Saints and Sinners at 11:30 on Tuesday, January 9th for a delicious lunch and fellowship. A program will be presented by Christopher Perrien, Executive Director of SSN 777. He will be providing information about the proud and vibrant relationship between the citizens of North Carolina and our namesake nuclear-powered submarine. Please RSVP to reserve your place for lunch by calling Carole Mason at 919 872-1518.

Men's Softball

Men's Softball will be starting in April 2018. We need new recruits. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mike Davis at mdavis6364@gmail.com or 321-356-6673.

Puzzle Get Together

Tuesday, January 23rd at 12:30

Come, relax, and have fun completing a puzzle.

Questions? Contact Claire Muller at 919-900-8443 or claire6078@att.net
Hope to see you there!

Ladies Lunch

The next lunch will be at 12:00 on Thursday, January 4 at Ruby Tuesdays,

All women are invited to share in fellowship and tasty food!

Please RSVP to Claire Muller, 919-900-8443

claire6078@att.net

Hope to see you there!



Men's Breakfast Club

Will meet on January 16th 9:30 am at **Metro Diner** at Sutton Square, Falls of Neuse Rd.. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship. To reserve your place contact Frank Bouknight @ 919-302-1812 or bouknightf@yahoo.com



Senior Ministry Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 3rd at 10:00 am in the Music Room.

We welcome new members. Come, join us for our first meeting of the new year.

Help plan activities for 2018.

Everyone is welcome!
We hope to see you there.



Cedar Point
Needs

What? Laptops for Cedar Point residents

Where? Lime green bin in the BBM closet in Luther Hall. If you do not have the ability to wipe the hard drive and reinstall the operating system, please let us know. We might be able to help!

Why? Residents are asking for laptops for many reasons! From educational pursuits to finding a job and getting assimilated to our culture.

I want to help more! Great! We need someone who can take laptops, wipe them, and reinstall the OS on them! Many folks feel like they cannot donate their laptops for this reason. Can you help us remove this hurdle?

Questions? Contact Stacey Bell at raleighbells@yahoo.com

Brown Bag Ministry

- ♦ BBM meets every month on the 2nd & 4th Saturday morning at 10:00 in Luther Hall.
- ♦ This is a great opportunity to serve for the whole family!
- ♦ We need your hands to help make and distribute the lunches.
- ♦ Questions? Email Stacey Bell at raleighbells@yahoo.com



Brown Bag Ministry

Abundance Ministry



We meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday between 11:30 and 1:30 in Luther Hall to organize donations and host families who have a need.

If you are interested in being part of Abundance Ministry in any way, from helping on Tuesdays to donations, please contact Stacey Bell at raleighbells@gmail.com.



G.R.O.W

(Get Renewed On Wednesday-RETURNS ON January 3rd!)

**For a midweek renewal through
a meal, music, youth groups, small groups and fellowship!!
Free will donations are encouraged.**

Bring your friends! All are Welcome!!

5:45-6:30	Meal (Luther Hall)
6:20-7:45	Small Groups (begins 1/24)
6:30-8:00	MS & HS Youth Groups
6:45-7:30	Joyful Noise Kids Choir
7:30-8:45	Voices of Praise Adult Choir

2018 Congregation Council

Name	Council Position	Email
Rev. Pam Northrup	Pastor	pastorpam@st-philip.org
Rodney Hooks	President	rhooks496@gmail.com
Marilyn Caple	Vice President	m.caple@yahoo.com
Liese Faircloth		lbfaircloth@yahoo.com
Edwina Bruce		asbcebecb@aol.com
Sandy Glass		sandyglass57@gmail.com
Don Helmey		dhelmey@earthlink.net
Gillian Kepley	Youth Representative	gchkepley@nc.rr.com
Mike Maness		mikeandlois@bellsouth.net
Crystal Ridenhour		crystalridenhour@gmail.com
John Sullivan		jsull77@gmail.com
Mark Tarquinio		woodyardcarol@att.net
Betty Wahlstrom		bwahl0256@gmail.com
Carol Williams		just1carol@gmail.com
Appointed Positions		
Louise Bouknight	Secretary	bouknightl@yahoo.com
Liese Faircloth	Treasurer	lbfaircloth@yahoo.com
Janis Lawrence	Financial Secretary	mrsjanistango@gmail.com

eGiving

If you are so moved to join others who regularly give electronically, please sign up by clicking the "Give" tab on the [St. Philip web site](#).



Quilters

The Quilters are looking for willing hands who can use scissors, tie a knot and who enjoy a warm blanket to help us every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level under Luther Hall.

Please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile endeavor. Questions: contact Barbara Burdette at bburd45955@aol.com



**FAMILIES
TOGETHER**
a PLM organization

Program Needs

With the start of the New Year, we need help restocking our supplies to help families move from homelessness to independence. There is a need for toiletries, such as soap, shampoo, deodorant as well as laundry baskets. Also, our after school program pantry is running low. Donations of non-perishable snacks and juices for the children would be greatly appreciated. Contact Meghan Olesen, Community Engagement Coordinator at 919-307-1892, or by e-mail, meghan@FamiliesTogetherNC.org.

Share and help us get the word out

Connect with us on Instagram (Families2gether). You'll also find regular updates on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/families2gether), and on Twitter (@families2gether).

January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Abundance Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Property Team	3 10:00 am Senior Adult Ministry GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	4 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	5 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	6 10:00 am TEC Meeting 7:00 pm AA
7 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Worship & Music 6:30 pm Nurture Relationships Team	8 10:00 am Romans Bible Study 6:30 pm Romans Bible Study 7:00 pm BSA Leaders	9 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Saints and Sinners 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Preschool Board	10 9:30 am Quilters GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	11 11:30am Refugee Wellness 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal 7:00 pm Finance & Responding	12 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	13 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
14 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:00 am Called Congregation Meeting 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Congregation Council	15 Martin Luther King Jr Holiday Office Closed 1:00 pm Bridge Group	16 9:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Abundance Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	17 GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	18 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	19 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	20 7:00 pm AA
21 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells	22 10:00 am Romans Bible Study 6:30 pm Romans Bible Study	23 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Women's Fellowship Group 6:30 pm Men's Pub Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	24 9:30 am Quilters GROW 5:45 Meal 6:20 Small Groups 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	25 11:30am Refugee Wellness 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	26 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	27 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
28 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:00 am Annual Congregation Meeting 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells	29 10:00 am Romans Bible Study 6:30 pm Romans Bible Study	30 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Abundance Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	31 9:30 am Quilters GROW 5:45 Meal 6:20 Small Groups 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir			

Sub Sales Order Form

Name _____

Please have ready by: 9:45AM
10:45AM
12:00PM



Please use a separate order form for each sandwich!

Meat(s):

_____ Ham
_____ Roast Beef
_____ Turkey

Cheese:

_____ American
_____ Provolone

Toppings:

_____ Mayonnaise
_____ Oil & Vinegar
_____ Tomato
_____ Sweet Peppers
_____ Pickles

_____ Mustard
_____ Lettuce
_____ Onion
_____ Black Olives

*Please return your order form to the marked file outside
Cathryn Hewett's office, the Gathering Room*



919-846-2992
www.St-Philip.org

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri
9:00 – 4:00



Like us on
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/St-Philip.org)

Rev. Pam Northrup
Senior Pastor
pastorpam@st-philip.org
919-987-0102
(in case of emergency)

Rev. Elizabeth Neely
Director of Children &
Middle School Ministries
pastorelizabeth@st-philip.org

Vicar Sharon Schulze
Seminary Intern
vicar@st-philip.org

Cathryn Hewett
Director of High School Ministry
cathryn@st-philip.org

Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

Y'Sang Milo
Custodian

St. Philip Lutheran Church

7304 Falls of Neuse Road
Raleigh, NC 27615
919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org

