The Epistle

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2022

Pastor's Message

Happy month of Thanksgiving!

We are thankful here at St. Philip for our soon-to-be new members! We have another New Member Class upcoming on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10am until noon in our Music Room. We will have refreshments prepared by some of our members, introduce ourselves to one another, have a tour of our facilities, and discuss mission and ministry opportunities offered here at St. Philip. We think we might have as many as 11 people interested in joining our faith community, and we are most eager to welcome them. Even if someone is a visitor but unsure at this point about joining - but just wants to learn more about our ministry - we welcome them, too. There is certainly no pressure to join if you are not quite ready to commit at this point. To register for this class, please use the link in the worship bulletin or this newsletter, or call or email our church secretary, Jane Gue. We will receive our new members in worship on Sunday, November 20, at both worship services.

We are thankful here at St. Philip for our Pub Ministry's recent campaign to assist the North Raleigh Ministry's (NRM) Food Bank. There is still one more Sunday to contribute as of the writing of this article, but so far, we have raised over \$5,000 and collected many non-perishable food items! We have more than doubled what I personally anticipated we might raise. That is due to your generosity, participation, and the leadership of Dave Wahlstrom. I can't wait to see what the Pub Ministry's next project will be.

We are thankful here at St. Philip for you! We are thankful for your worship attendance and participation, for your Sunday School and Bible Study participation, for your singing in the choir and/or playing in the praise band. We are thankful for your assistance in worship, in all kinds of ways, for your giving of your financial resources, and your helping with the upkeep of our property. We are thankful for your making quilts, Brown Bag lunches, and for your fellowship at our various lunch and dinner groups. We are thankful for your service on our Columbarium committee and every other committee our church has. We are thankful for your kind disposition, your warm smile, and your encouraging words. We are thankful for your service on Church Council. We praise God, quite simply, for your discipleship: for your loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving your neighbor as yourself. We thank you, my friends, for "sharing the love of Christ!"

Yours in Christ with much appreciation, Pastor Tim



NOR+H RALEIGH MINISTRIES

Food Drive for North Raleigh Ministries

"All God's children got a place in the choir... Some sing low...some sing higher"

Excuse us if we take a liberty with that song. The St. Philip children of God have found their place in His choir whether it was praying, donating food, donating money, donating time, etc.

The Men's Pub Ministry humbly thanks you, and blesses you for the place you found in God's choir. The song you sang went a long way towards supporting our neighbors here in North Raleigh.

Sharing the Love of Christ, The Men's Pub Ministry

Shopping for North Raleigh Ministries



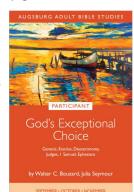
Delivering Food to NRM



Augsburg Sunday School Class

Sunday mornings, at 10:00 in the Music Room. The class will use the Bible study guide, God's Exceptional Choice.

This class is an opportunity to deepen and share your faith with your brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Philip. Class facilitation is rotated among the members and meets in the Music Room. All are welcome!



THE BOOK OF ACTS The story continues WEDNEDAYS @ 10:30 am & 6:45 pm

Pastor's Bible Study

Everyone is welcome to join Pastor Tim's study of the early Church with the book of Acts telling the story.

On Wednesdays at 10:30 and 6:45 in the Music Room. If you haven't attended the study yet, that's okay join us anyway!).

We will meet in person in the Music Room and will utilize Zoom for those who may not be able to attend. Details available from the church office—919-846-2992 or <u>church@st-philip.org</u>

Wednesdays 10:30 am & 6:45 pm

Beginning 11/30 with Advent, the evening class will meet at 7:00 pm following Advent Worship



What a fun month we had in October, a trip to the NC Farmers Market for apples and pumpkins, Donuts with our Dads, an Usborne Book Fair and Fall parties where we dressed up in our favorite costumes!

In November, all the classes talk about being thankful for our many blessings as well as America's first Thanksgiving. The Preschool celebrates Thanksgiving with a feast and the children dress up as either Pilgrims or American Indians as we re-enact the first Thanksgiving with our friends!

St. Philip Preschool is very thankful for the congregation who have opened their hearts to these precious little children! May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends!

Please visit <u>st-philip.org/preschool</u> for more information about the program and the registration form.



Donuts with our Dads



November 8th at 11:30

Dr. Richard Adelman, family practice MD discusses current health issues and discuss questions.

Fellowship, Food, and Fun! Please RSVP to Carole Mason by Friday, 11/5 @ 919-210-0727

\$7.00 lunch donation would be appreciated

Have you thought of some programs you'd like to see come to a Saints & Sinners luncheon? Let Frank know at 919-302-1812 or bouknightf@yahoo.com



September's Luncheon Featured Ed Peterson & Don Helmey leading a sing along!

Messages from Kai

Kingdom Kids (grades K-5)

Kingdom Kids is our Children's Ministry at St. Philip. Kingdom Kids is relational, formative, and fun!

At St. Philip, we have a strong commitment to:

- \star the growth of each child's spiritual development
- ★ child safety during all activities and events
- ★ a welcoming atmosphere
- ★ most of all, having fun learning about God and building friendships with one another.

Connect with Kingdom Kids

Monthly Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids get together for a fun event once a month onsite at St. Philip, or possibly for an outing in the community. Our times together are often split into 20-minute segments and might look like this: - Opening/Welcoming Games (20 minutes) - Discovery Time (20 minutes) - More Games or Service Project (20 minutes)

Kingdom Kids (K-5) Fall 2022 Schedule

Nov. 13 – Kingdom Kids (Kindergarten-grade 5)	4-5pm
Dec. 11 - Interactive Christmas Theater & Dinner (congregational event for all ages)	4:30pm
Dec. 24 – Family Christmas Eve Worship Service	4pm

Worship

We encourage our Kingdom Kids to be involved in every aspect of our worship services. They can serve in volunteer roles, help lead the service, or participate as best they can in the pews or at home virtually. They are welcome wiggles, giggles, and all!

Questions? You can contact Kai Thurow at Kai@st-philip.org

Youth Group (grades 6-12)

Middle and High School can be messy — and we join in the mess with laughs, authentic community, and creativity.

Get ready for transformational trips and retreats, engaging youth group nights, service opportunities, and God's work in your life! Come join us in a place where you can be yourself and know that you belong.



Connect with our Youth Group

Youth Group Nights

Our youth group every other Sunday from 6:30-8pm for a chance to catch up with each other, to play some games, to enjoy a devotion together, and to occasionally take a deep dive into various faith and life topics.

Youth Group (6-12) Fall 2022 Schedule

Nov. 6 – Youth Group (grades 6-12)	6:30-8pm
Nov. 20 – Youth Group (grades 6-12)	6:30-8pm
Dec. 4 – Youth Group (grades 6-12)	6:30-8pm
Dec. 11 - Interactive Christmas Theater & Dinner (congregational event for all ages)	4:30pm
Dec. 18 – Youth Group (grades 6-12)	6:30-8pm
Dec. 24 – Family Christmas Eve Worship Service	4:00pm
Dec. 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service	8:00pm

Worship

Our middle and high school youth are invited to be involved in every aspect of our worship services. They serve in volunteer roles, help lead the service, or participate in the pews or at home virtually.





Monthly Breakfast Group—

At iHop on Six Forks or on Zoom.



Tuesday 11/15/22 at 9:30 am

Spread the word and invite a friend for this casual time of fellowship and conversation!

Contact Frank Bouknight for more information. bouknightf@yahoo.com or

Puzzle Get Together

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month, on <u>November 17th in the Music Room at 10 am</u> Come, relax, and have fun completing a puzzle. Questions? Contact Claire Muller at 919–752-6541 or <u>claire6078@att.net</u>

Hope to see you there!

Ladies Lunch

Will meet at 12:00 pm on Thursday, November 3rd at iHop on Six Forks Rd.

Please contact Claire Muller to RSVP for the reservation. 919-752-6541 or clairegm855@gmail.com



Every 1st Thursday!

, Fellowship Supper Group

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. It is the same night as the Pub Ministry gathering.

Watch for details about our next meal, on November 22 @ 6:30 pm. We hope you can join in the fun! Please <u>RSVP here f</u>or reservation purposes, but if you can't—no worries come anyway!

For more information contact Carol Rogers <u>parakayaker@gmail.com</u>



Everyone is invited!!

Pub Ministry

The next time we'll get together will be 6:30 pm, November 22nd at Saints and Scholars. We will not meet in December.

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. We also provide service to the church and community.

Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

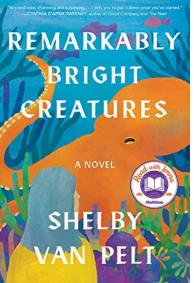
Questions? Contact Dave Wahlstrom @ <u>dave00256@gmail.com</u>

Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting will be on November 29th, at 10:00 in the Parlor— moving to the 5th Tuesday as the week before will be busy with Thanksgiving! We will be discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago.

Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.



Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible.

The book is available on Amazon or in the Wake County Public Library.

We hope to see you there, in the Parlor on November 29th at 10:00!



Wednesdays Beginning November 30th 6:30 in the Sanctuary or Zoom <u>Use Sunday's Zoom link</u>: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/480739190</u>

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm

In Person: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh (3313 Wade Ave.) Livestream Link: http://www.uufr.org

Gather with neighbors of diverse faith traditions to pray and give thanks together. An offering of donations and canned goods will be collected for Urban Ministries. Following the service, enjoy refreshments and conversation.



Pastor Tim will deliver the message for the service.

Outreach Highlight:

North Raleigh Ministries (NRM)

This past month our Pub Ministry hosted a fooddrive to help support the foodbank at NRM that was very generously supported by the congregation, but did you know that NRM has more than a foodbank?

Founded by five (5) local congregations in 2004, NRM now serves thousands of people in our community each year. They have 2 thrift shoppes, a large food pantry, and well-designed programs to help people move from crisis to stability. North Raleigh Ministries believes that God desires for everyone to thrive and they live this out with their model of helping people that takes the whole person, their individual situation, and their needs into account.

Thrift Shoppes

NRM has two Thrift Shoppes where you can shop or drop off items that you don't need or want anymore. One store is in Harvest Plaza off of Strickland Road, and the other is located in Stony Brook off of Brentwood Road (no drop-offs at this store). Sales from both stores help fund the programs that equip local families and individuals in crisis with the resources and skills they need to achieve stability. Annually, the stores divert over 500,000 pounds of goods from landfills while providing low-cost goods to the community.

Food Pantry & Backpack Buddies

Stocked by partner organizations and through donations and food drives from local churches like ours, the food pantry is able to directly and immediately serve those in need in our community. As food prices are rising, NRM's Food Pantry is helping to keep families in our community fed. In 2020 they gave more than 630,000 pounds of food – which equates to a bit over \$1,000,000 in food. This year they anticipate that number more than doubling. They also run a Backpack Buddies program as part of their food pantry that provides food for kids, especially on the weekends when they are unable to take advantage of free lunches at school and has been identified as one of the largest areas of need in our community.

NOR+H RALEIGH MINISTRIES

The Journey Program

This twelve-week program is one that really encompasses this idea of wholistically helping meet the needs of people in our community. Their clients often come to them in crisis, and this program helps give them hope for a different future. Through this program clients can sit down one-on-one with a case manager and/or social worker. They provide coaching, a financial education program, and job training to help get people to a place of stability.

Guidance and Prayer Program

Anyone who walks through the doors of NRM can begin having weekly check-ins and prayer with the case workers and staff at NRM. They have found that such a simple thing can make a huge difference in the lives of those they interact with.

Keep an eye out for other ways that we will be partnering with NRM to support the amazing work that they do in the coming months. If you are interested in learning more about NRM or want to help with their ministry to our local community, you can visit their website at northraleighministries.com or talk to Kai. <u>Kai@st-philip.org</u>





THANKSGIVING MEALS AND HOLIDAY SMILES!

Our Fall Campaign also includes the Annual FT Thanksgiving Meals Drive and Holiday Smiles gift drive. During Holiday Smiles, we collect wish lists from children in our program and match them with sponsors who alleviate the stress on parents by shopping for Christmas gifts for their children and put a big smile on the face of each kid in the process! If you are interested in being a sponsor for Holiday Smiles or in donating food for the Thanksgiving Drive, please email Sara Karbley, our Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at <u>Sara@FamiliesTogetherNC.org</u>.

Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in doing what you can to help local families? Please look below and let us know if you'd like to learn more or sign up to help with any of these projects that need volunteer support:

- Staining exterior stairwells and decks
- Cleaning up and landscaping yards
- Cleaning apartments during the turnover from one family to the next
- Painting FT apartment units
- Building/repairing garden container beds

Please email Sara Karbley, the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at <u>Sara@FamiliesTogetherNC.org</u> for more information!

Shiloh Restoration Church is an African Refugee congregation that worships here in the lower level of the education building on Sunday afternoons.

The United Worship Service takes place on the 5th Sundays—On those Sundays we have One service at 10:00. Both the Crossing contemporary service at 9:00 and the Traditional service at 11:00 come together to worship as one body of St. Philip with One United service at 10:00.

The Quilting Group here at St. Philip created 27 quilts this year. The quilts were blessed and will be sent all over the world through Lutheran World Relief.



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 Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the lower level under Luther Hall.

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

Celebrate Property Work Day!!

















Message from Stewardship

Over the last six weeks, you have heard a lot from the Stewardship Committee as we kicked off and ran through the 2022 Stewardship Campaign, "What can I BEE doing?". This year we focused on one of God's most wonderful creations, the bee! By utilizing the bee and the beehive as metaphors, we can see and understand how our selfless work is supporting our mission statement, Sharing the Love of Christ, throughout our congregation and our community. Some of you may be asking yourself, what is stewardship and how does it relate to me?

As a Lutheran Congregation, we are all freed in Christ to serve and love thy neighbor. Considering our mission statement, how does one respond to God's call to serve and Share the Love of Christ? Much like the bee, we are faithful stewards, and share the gifts of God so abundantly given to us. The bee's selfless work is shared with all in the hive. Additionally, as they go about their work, they pollinate countless plants, which in turn produce food and flowers. Without their selfless work, the hive and the community would not survive. As stewards, it is our job to manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Much like the bees, we go forth sharing the love of Christ one selfless act at a time

We can all become better stewards through a simple process. The steps in this process are selfexamination, tithing, personal witness, and carrying out the mission of St. Philip. Selfexamination purposefully allows us to look within ourselves to identify what our talents are, where we can best utilize our time, and how we can share our financial resources. Tithing can be an uncomfortable topic; however, first fruit is explained in Leviticus 23:9-14 as the act of giving the first 10 percent of the harvest to God.

Through personal witness we can lift up each other in all that we do to Share the Love of Christ. The Stewardship Committee helped share personal witnesses through both testimonials and the "Bee Form." The last piece of being a good steward is carrying out the St. Philip mission statement, Sharing the Love of Christ. All the bees hung in the Narthex and in the hallway outside the Crossing service represent the selfless work being done by our congregation. Each Bee is a prayer for all of the ways we all share the love of Christ, we continue to remember them in prayer.

Throughout our Stewardship Campaign this year, we hope we have lifted up all the good work being done by our congregation. In October, we sent you an Estimate of Giving Card for 2023. If you have not already done so, please take time to selfexamine and determine how you can best Share the Love of Christ. Please consider what you might be able to pledge financially to support the ongoing ministry here at St. Philip. Moreover, please look for ways to leverage your time and your talents here at St. Philip and in our community. Finally, look for opportunities to be a personal witness and share with others how you serve and love thy neighbor. Hopefully through this process you will discover even more ways to Share the Love of Christ!



Trunk or Treat!

Another year of a fun Halloween treat was had by our community! Estimates of around 300 people have been reported to have traveled through our Trunk or Treat parking lot! Thank you to all who made this possible, donating candy, setting up your trunks, mingling and welcoming! What a fun way to share the love of Christ!















Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the last few months of 2022, it is appropriate to take stock of where we are compared to our financial plan or budget.

In September, monthly income dropped off a bit after the improvement seen in August. Total income was \$37,754 for the month, or \$11,704 under plan, while expenses were \$43,477, or \$1,928 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$396,586, or \$36,284 under plan, while expenses were \$388,319 or \$42,340 under plan. Income exceeded expenses by \$8,267, but remember that budgeted reserves are not expensed until the end of each year.

In order for us to meet our income plan for the year and to be able to fund important budgeted reserves, it will be necessary for our giving to increase meaningfully in the last three months of the year. Your Finance team asks that you prayerfully consider how you might be able to help our congregation meet or exceed its budgeted income by year end. We are in good financial stead based on our giving the last few years and we certainly want to maintain and grow our important ministries!

Blessings, Jim Beck, Finance Chair

Attention THRIVENT Members

Have you checked your Thrivent Choice Dollars lately? You can either go online to Thrivent.com or call 800-Thrivent and ask for Fraternal.

If you call, just tell them you want to designate your Choice Dollars to St Philip. Thank you for considering giving your Choice Dollars to your church.

Giving				September 2022		022
	Actual	Plan	%	Financial Summary		
September 2022	\$ 37,754	\$ 49,458	76%			
Year to Date	\$396,586	\$432,870	92%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$36,471	\$ 42,083	87%	\$379,027	\$378,750	100%
Other Income	\$ 1,283	\$ 7,374	17%	\$ 17,559	\$54,120	32%
Total Income	\$37,754	\$ 49,458	76%	\$396,586	\$432,870	92%
Expenses	\$ 43,477	\$ 45,404	96%	\$388,319	\$430,660	90%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (5,723)	\$ 4,053		\$ 8,267	\$ 2,210	

The Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$575,993



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	2 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	3 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	4 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	5 7:00 pm AA
6 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:00 pm Handbells 6:30pm Youth Group	7 2:00 pm Staff 6:30 pm Property Team	8 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Preschool Board	9 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	10 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	11 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	12 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 10:00 am New Members Class 7:00 pm AA
 13 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 4:00 pm Kingdom Kids 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Congregation Council 	14 1:00 pm Staff 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	15 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	16 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	17 10:00 am Puzzle Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	18 10:00 am Al-Anon 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	19 7:00 pm AA
20 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30pm Youth Group	21 1:00 pm Staff 7:00 pm Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service	22 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Pub Ministry 6:30 pm Fellowship Dinner Group	23	24 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 6:30 pm NA	25 Office Closed 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	26 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:30 pm AA
27 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells	28 1:00 pm Staff 7:00 pm Worship & Music	29 10:00 am Book Club 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	30 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)			



Bob Petters Choir Director <u>stphilipchurchchoir@gmail.com</u>

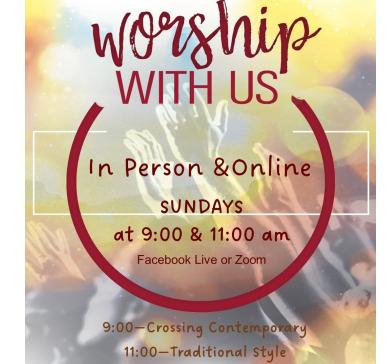
> Jane Gue Office Administrator admin@st-philip.org

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Mon, Wed, & Fri

9:00 - 4:00

9:00-4:00

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