

# The Epistle

May, 2024 ♦ St. Philip Lutheran Church



## Pastor's Message

Happy Spring!

God has continued moving in the hearts of the congregation of St. Philip. We averaged 201 people in worship for the month of March. That is the largest attendance in the four years I have been here and the highest I have ever experienced personally in my 27 years of ordained ministry. That is most exciting! We had over 210 people for Palm Sunday and over 310 for Easter. We have recently begun live streaming over YouTube, so that is helping boost our online attendance. It looks like our attendance has been roughly two-thirds in person and one-third online recently (online includes Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube).

We are tentatively due to receive eight new members this upcoming week: John and Judy Keadle, Darry and Joy Becker, Rev. Dr. Julius and Geneva Carroll, Bryce Poland, and Mary-Elizabeth Furr (as an associate member). We give God the praise for them joining us, and we delight to receive them and their gifts in our faith community. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to them when you get the opportunity, so we can fully welcome them here.

Thank you one and all for your recent generosity to those in need. After thinking we might receive \$2,000 to \$4,000 for our Camp Agape appeal for a much-needed new swimming pool for their summer campers this year, we received over \$8,000! Just imagine the joy and refreshment you have helped provide youth as they are strengthened in their faith this summer. Furthermore, we received 234 pairs of shoes for our recent shoe drive for Refugee Hope Partners. There is little more gratifying than being able to assist people with their most basic needs of housing, food, and clothing, and we are doing all the above in remarkably generous fashion here at

St. Philip. We don't just pay lip service to our mission of "Sharing the Love" of Christ – we are living that out each and every season of the year. I am so proud to be the pastor of this congregation.

As of last week, we launched our annual Families Together Spring Campaign, which will run through late May. Our own Mike Fagan is now chair of the Board for Families Together. Because the needs of people experiencing homelessness have soared in recent years, St. Philip's contributions towards this Spring Campaign have followed suit. The needs can feel overwhelming, but when we join together with other partner churches and organizations, we can go a long way towards meeting them. A special thank you to Mike and Catalina Fagan, Kathy Blum and Paul Lester, and Allen and Cathryn Hewett for being part of the team contributing to the matching funds for this effort.

Just a few statistics to be aware of: it is estimated that 8,000 children will be homeless this year in Wake County; those children are three times more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems, four times more likely to get sick, and 83 percent of them will be exposed to at least one serious incident of violence. Rather than inundate you with further statistics, please see Kai Thurow's report contained herein. Please consider a gift during this campaign. Whether by check or online giving, please don't forget to mention that you are a part of St. Philip. Thank you for your consideration in this vital matter of providing safe and secure homes to those who lack them.

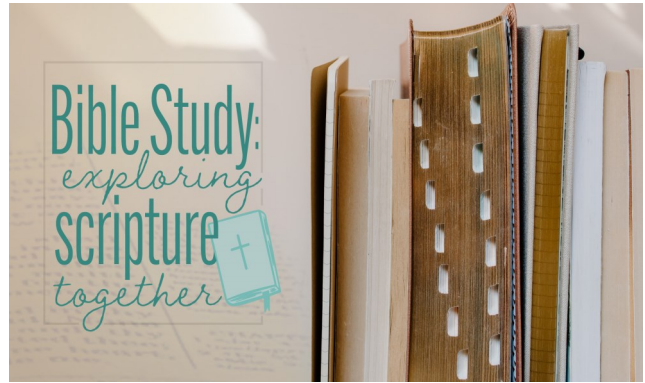
Finally, I will be going on my mini sabbatical for six weeks, from Mon, May 6 through Mon, June 17. When I return, I will actually be at Lutheridge, near Asheville, with Kai and two youth on a "Campfirmation" week for our Discipleship Academy here at St. Philip.

*Continued.*

So, the first time most of you will see me will be on Sun, June 23. I intend to rest, read, and travel during that time. My goal is to return renewed and refreshed.

Pastor Peter Brown will serve as the supply pastor during that time. He will be here for the Sunday services, will provide pastoral care and counseling, and will lead Bible Study (as of this writing), on Wednesdays at the regularly scheduled times. Please keep me in your prayers, and I will see you soon.

Sharing the Love of Christ,  
Pastor Tim



**Pastor Peter Brown** will lead Bible Study through the month of May. Wednesdays at 10:30 am & 6:45 pm Everyone is welcome to join; we hope to see you there

Zoom in the Morning: [Click Here](#)  
Zoom in the Evening: [Click Here](#)



Joy & Darrell Becker



Julius & Geneva Carroll



Mary Elizabeth Furr



John & Judy Keadle



Barbara Black & Ron Parmeter will be attending the NC Synod Gathering this year, representing St. Philip.

**2024 Theme—We Are More!**

*in all these things WE ARE MORE than victorious through him who loved us. Romans 8:37*

Through Christ, together, we are more. In his letter to the Romans, Paul wrote that together, through the love of Christ, the church would prevail—in fact they were more than victorious. We are more than victorious against the challenges of today's world when we hold one another in the love of Christ. We belong to each other. Together, we witness and share Christ's love. Walking together, WE ARE MORE.



## Children & Youth Calendar

Sunday, May 19th @ 5:00 pm

Join us for a celebratory cookout dinner here at the church to mark the \*near\* end of the school year and to welcome in the summer! For more information, please email [kai@st-philip.org](mailto:kai@st-philip.org)



## Kingdom Kids (grades K-5)

Kingdom Kids is our Children's Ministry at St. Philip for all children in grades K-5.

During the traditional school year, this group meets once a month for an hour of fun as we play games, Bible study, music, craft, and do some service projects! May 19th will be the last get together for the summer. For more information, please email [kai@st-philip.org](mailto:kai@st-philip.org)



## Youth Group (grades 6-12)



During the traditional school year, our Youth Group for grades 6-12 meets twice a month. May 19th will be our last get together for the summer.

For more information, contact [kai@st-philip.org](mailto:kai@st-philip.org)

## Summer: Agapé Day Camp - July 8-12 (current grades K-5)



This summer, St. Philip is partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh for our Agape' Day Camp week July 8-12. The theme for this summer is "Do Not Be Afraid!"

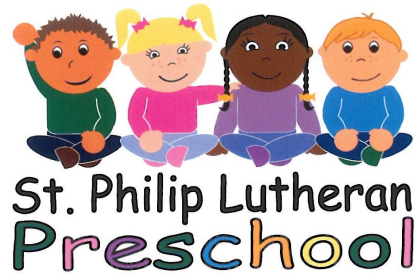
All current Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade youth are eligible to attend. Day Camp days run from 9am-3pm (Monday-Thursday) and 9am-12pm (Friday). There will be a closing program on Thursday evening at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 6:30pm.

Each day you send a packed lunch for your child, and we provide the snacks. During the week we'll have lots of great games, songs, activities, work on a service project, get wet on water day (Wednesday), and lots more!

**St. Philip is committed to covering the full cost of this experience so that it is FREE to our young disciples!**

Space is limited to 30 participants. You can register online [HERE](#) or you can contact Kai if you are interested in attending or want more information at [Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org)





Our school year at St. Philip Preschool has flown by as we begin our last month of school. In April, we had our Spring Art Show where parents viewed and bought their child's artwork. The funds we raised will be used for art supplies, books for our library and playground updates!

May is a very special month as we honor the mothers of our preschoolers with Muffins for Moms and Mother's Day Teas. Our Spring Program "God's Beautiful World" will be held on Friday, May 17 at 9:30am in the sanctuary. You are invited to hear the sweet voices of our 3-, 4- & 5-year-old children! We will end our school year with "Beach Days" and our class picnics will be held at the Green Hills County Park.

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is ongoing and if you are interested or know someone who is please call 919-870-5841 or Leigh Anne Barham at 919-818-9585. St. Philip Preschool has warm, nurturing teachers, an age-appropriate curriculum, and large classrooms.

Thank you, St. Philip, for always welcoming us and for all your prayers, love, and support!

## It's that time of year already!

Summer is coming soon, and we are blessed to have amazing Lutheran summer camps here in North Carolina that offer a variety of fantastic half week or full week summer camp experiences that will shape the faith lives of your children.

Check out all the different options at these camps by visiting their websites today.

If you are interested in attending and need a scholarship, contact Kai for more information.



## Lutheran World Relief Quilting Group Volunteer to quilt for kids and families in need.

The Quilters meet in the lower level of the education building. We are looking for willing hands who can use scissors, tie a knot and who enjoy a warm blanket—to help us on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Thursday mornings of the month at 10:00 am



Please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile endeavor.  
Contact Barbara Burdette for more information: [bburd45955@aol.com](mailto:bburd45955@aol.com)

# Outreach Highlights

## Families Together Spring Fundraising Campaign



Each spring Families Together (FT) holds their Spring Fundraising Campaign to help families in Wake County who are experiencing homelessness find a stable homing. Their holistic approach towards helping move families experiencing crisis into stable situations is vitally important.

In 2023, FT was able to help a little over 250 of the 300 families on their wait list because of donations like the ones collected from St. Philip last year. Unfortunately, the need has only continued to grow, and this year (2024) FT has another 493 people on their waitlist. The great work that FT does isn't free. It costs roughly \$10,000 to move a family through this process and through St. Philip led efforts last year we helped house 16 families! That is absolutely incredible!

This year, are excited to partner with FT once again to help fight family homelessness in our community. Starting on Sunday, April 21 we began sharing sharing some additional information about FT, their mission, and some facts about homelessness in our community. You can find some handouts with this information as you enter any of our worship spaces.

Knowing that the need is great, we ask you to once again, prayerfully consider giving to support this great cause.

If you feel so moved to give to this wonderful cause you can do so through St. Philip OR by giving directly to Families Together.

Giving through [St. Philip Online](https://st-philip.org/giving) or via check. Please indicate in the comments/memo section that the gift is for Families Together. (St. Philip Giving Link: <https://st-philip.org/giving>).

Giving directly to [Families Together Online](https://famielstogethernc.org). Please indicate that you are connected to St. Philip Lutheran Church in the comments.

FT Giving Link: <https://famielstogethernc.org/general-donation>

## Outreach Opportunities You Can Get Involved In:

- ★ North Raleigh Ministries – Volunteer at the Food Pantry
- ★ North Raleigh Ministries – Volunteer at the Thrift Shoppe(s)
- ★ Refugee Hope Partners – Brown Bag Ministries on the 2nd & 4th Saturday's each month. Also looking for additional volunteers who might be interested in helping to pick up food for the packing days as needed.
- ★ Refugee Hope Partners – Volunteer for the “Homework Help Program”
- ★ Families Together – Join our “Tidy Team” which cleans apartments as clients move in and out of transitional housing on an as needed basis.



If you are interested in finding ways to plug-in or in getting additional information about any of our Outreach Opportunities, please contact [Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org)

# North Raleigh Ministries (NRM) New Crisis & Development Center



NRM's Crisis & Development Center is moving to a new area where they hope to reach far more people in our community. With the new location/building, they are in need of more volunteers who are able to help with their food pantry! Let us know if you'd like more information! And we invite you to check out this message from Donna Pygott, the Executive Director at NRM.

*"We have an exciting update to share with you! NRM's Crisis & Development Center is relocating to 2809 E Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27604.*

*As we make this shift, our Food Pantry will be temporarily closed from Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> as we transition everything over to the new facility. The pantry will reopen on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.*

*This is an exciting time for our organization and we are thrilled to be able to serve our community even better! None of this would be possible without the amazing support from people like you.*

*Thank you for making our relocation a reality so that we can transform more lives in our community. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming programs and ways you can get involved. The future is bright, and we are truly blessed to have you along for the ride.*

*Together in Christ,*

*Donna Pygott*

*P.S.*

*Please note that both Thrift Shoppes will remain at their current locations and operate as usual!"*





# Faith & Fellowship

## Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday 5/21 at 9:30 am

We will meet at Falls River Café

10630 Durant Rd. (use the Bojangles driveway to their parking).

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

Contact Frank Bouknight for more information. [bouknightf@yahoo.com](mailto:bouknightf@yahoo.com) or 919-302-1812

## Pub Ministry

Pub Ministry will meet on Tuesday 5/28 at 6:30 pm - Milton's. We will meet together with spouses etc. and the Fellowship Supper Group. Contact Dave Wahlstrom at [dave00256@gmail.com](mailto:dave00256@gmail.com) to learn more.



We will meet at 6:30 pm on 5/28/24 at Milton's  
With the Pub Ministry at Milton's  
Questions?  
contact Carol Rogers  
[parakayaker@gmail.com](mailto:parakayaker@gmail.com)

Everyone is invited!!



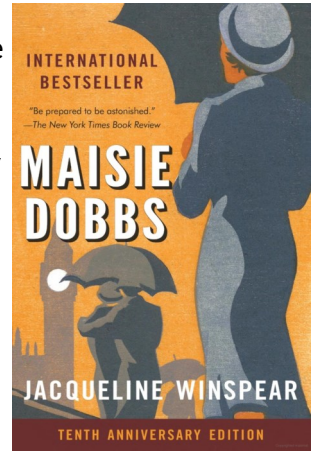
12:00 pm on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Winston's Grille, Falls of Neuse Rd.  
Please contact Debbie Voress for the reservation.  
919-782-2622  
Every 1st Thursday!  
Hope to see you there!

## Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Parlor. We will be discussing *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear

Maisie Dobbs, Psychologist and Investigator, began her working life at the age of thirteen as a servant in a Belgravia mansion, only to be discovered reading in the library by her employer, Lady Rowan Compton. Fearing dismissal, Maisie is shocked when she discovers that her thirst for education is to be supported by Lady Rowan and a family friend, Dr. Maurice Blanche. But The Great War intervenes in Maisie's plans, and soon after commencement of her studies at Girton College, Cambridge, Maisie enlists for nursing service overseas.



Years later, in 1929, having apprenticed to the renowned Maurice Blanche, a man revered for his work with Scotland Yard, Maisie sets up her own business. Her first assignment, a seemingly tedious inquiry involving a case of suspected infidelity, takes her not only on the trail of a killer, but back to the war she had tried so hard to forget.

Available at the Wake County Library.  
We hope to see you there!  
Contact Kathryn Edwards for more info.

[itsmekge@gmail.com](mailto:itsmekge@gmail.com)



On the second Tuesday of the month we get together for a shared lunch, good conversation and an interesting program.

This month we welcome a local Christian Comedian and an Illusionist! This will be the last luncheon for the summer, we hope you'll join in and bring a friend!

Everyone is welcome to attend!

**May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am** in Luther Hall.

Please RSVP to Carole Mason in order to plan. 919-210-0727.

# Can you give a Ride?



**Members helping members**

**Our Senior Ministry Team needs your help.** We need more volunteers to help out our senior members. Would you be willing to drive someone to an appointment or to church? Would you be able to pick up groceries or a prescription and deliver to someone? We are currently in the process of updating an old list of people who volunteered to help out. You can get your name on the list by calling or e-mailing the church office.

When someone has a need for transportation or help with an errand they can call or text Kathy Casadonte at 919-897-6056. She will coordinate the need for assistance with someone willing to help.

The Senior Ministry Team greatly appreciates any help you can offer. Remember. We are His hands and feet in Raleigh.

## Christ Caring for People through People

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a time of transition or experiencing a crisis.

### What do Stephen Ministers do?

They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting.

And during this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time—large or small—and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to Pastor Tim or a Stephen Ministry Leader.

***Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!***

**Stephen Leaders:** [Kathy Blum](#) [Dan Heyl](#)





# Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In March, the three-month trend of income being under plan continued; however, a generous donation specified for HVAC replacement reversed the large expense for that item we incurred last month. We recorded the contribution as an expense reduction, rather than income. As a result, our expenses for March were substantially under plan.

For the month, total income was \$50,252, or \$2,898 under plan and expenses were \$35,184, or \$16,366 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$151,970, or \$6,380 under plan, while expenses were \$141,474, or \$15,427 under plan. Income has exceeded expenses by \$10,497.

So, while we are in ok shape on the budget because of the noted lower expenses, the income trend is something we will continue to watch closely as the year progresses. Your generosity is appreciated and we praise God for the blessings we have received.

Blessings,  
Jim Beck  
Finance Chair

## A New Look—

Our online financial partner, Vanco, has updated and improved their website where you go to give to St. Philip from the church's website. We think you'll find it much more user friendly. If you have questions or difficulties with the site, please contact the church office.



				March, 2024 Financial Summary		
Giving	Actual	Plan	%			
March 2024	\$ 50,098	\$ 53,150	94%			
Year to Date	\$151,970	\$ 158,350	96%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
<b>Income</b>						
General Fund	\$ 46,498	\$ 44,167	105%	\$139,515	\$ 132,500	105%
Other Income	\$ 3,600	\$ 8,983	40%	\$ 12,456	\$ 25,850	48%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 50,098</b>	<b>\$ 53,150</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>\$151,970</b>	<b>\$158,350</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
	\$ 35,184	\$ 51,550	68%	\$ 141,474	\$156,900	90%
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>						
	\$ 14,914	\$ 1,600		\$ 10,497	\$ 1,450	

The 2024 Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$632,301



5/3 38<sup>th</sup> Paul & Pam Augustowski  
5/4 22<sup>nd</sup> Mike & Aurora Davis  
5/10 27<sup>th</sup> Jim & Stacey Bell  
5/12 45<sup>th</sup> Mark & Sandy Glass  
5/12 23<sup>rd</sup> Paul & Christine Grantham  
5/12 23<sup>rd</sup> Tim & Allison Weinzapfel  
5/15 42<sup>nd</sup> Ed & Paula Metivier  
5/18 39<sup>th</sup> David & Lori Bratcher  
5/19 23<sup>rd</sup> Brian & Heather Kindl  
5/21 13<sup>th</sup> Kai & Lauren Thurow  
5/22 25<sup>th</sup> JP & Holly Attanasio  
5/29 42<sup>nd</sup> Keith & Edwina Bruce

This month's  
*Anniversaries*  
&  
*Birthdays*

5/2 Cole Esler  
5/7 Jakson Attanasio  
5/8 Katherine Woods  
5/9 Dave Barham  
5/15 Allison Edwards  
5/15 Rebecca Shermer  
5/22 Barbara Burdette  
5/22 Anne Mehr  
5/23 Joyce Schmidt  
5/24 Bill Bunte  
5/24 Jim Beck  
5/25 Emme Hooks  
5/28 Glenn Smyre  
5/29 Matthew Casadonte  
5/31 Caitlyn Bell





**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**9:00 am – Crossing Contemporary**

**11:00 am – Traditional style**

**In Person, Zoom, Facebook YouTube**

**Rev. Tim Poston**  
Senior Pastor  
[Pastor@st-philip.org](mailto:Pastor@st-philip.org)


**Kai Thurow**  
Outreach & Youth Ministries  
Coordinator  
[Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org)

**Regan Wang**  
Director of Worship & Music  
Ministries  
[chuhrare@gmail.com](mailto:chuhrare@gmail.com)

919-846-2992  
[www.St-Philip.org](http://www.St-Philip.org)

**Jane Gue**  
Office Administrator  
[admin@st-philip.org](mailto:admin@st-philip.org)

**In person Office Hours:**  
Mon, Wed, & Fri  
**9:00 – 4:00**  
Tues & Thurs (Virtual)  
**9:00 – 4:00**

**Facebook**  
St. Philip Lutheran  
Church, Raleigh 

**Twitter**  
[@St\\_PhilipELCA](https://twitter.com/St_PhilipELCA) 

**Instagram**  
[stplcraleigh](https://www.instagram.com/stplcraleigh) 

### **St. Philip Lutheran Church**

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