



The Epistle

July, 2024

St. Philip Lutheran Church

Pastor's Message

Well, it's good to be back! Thank you all so much for praying for me as I was on my six-week mini-sabbatical. It was definitely a time of relaxation and rejuvenation.

A college friend of mine lent me his mountain cabin outside Blowing Rock for several days. The weather was so pleasant and cool. And the scenery was, of course, beautiful. My parents joined me there for a few days over Mother's Day. We realized it was the first time we had all been away together on vacation in a couple of decades. Shortly thereafter I was able to go to the beach, specifically to Southport/Oak Island, a place I had never been before. As you know, to be on the beach is so tranquil and relaxing. And again, the weather cooperated. The seafood was predictably delicious. Southport is one of those rare beaches which faces south, meaning you can see the sunrise over the ocean in the morning (not that I did, mind you!) and the sunset over the waters in the evening. I'm hopeful I can return to both the mountains and the beach at least a little more frequently, as I had been to neither in years.

I was able to attend my younger son, Tristan's, graduation from kindergarten as well. His mother and I are so proud of him. He is advancing quite rapidly in several ways, including karate. Obviously, he will be entering first grade in the fall. A planned visit to Washington, D.C., to visit my older son, Grant, didn't pan out due to a scheduling conflict, but I hope to visit him later on this summer. My sons are the apple of my eye, and I praise God for granting me the opportunity to be their father.

I attended my 35th reunion at Davidson College, which is always fun. Because my father graduated exactly 25 years prior to me, we are always there at the same time. So this was his 60th reunion.

My friends and I shared many memories and laughs, for sure. One of the blessings of attending a small school is that my first Religion professor (whom I had taken only once and had not seen in 35 years) called me by name as I walked by. Fittingly, he taught me a class on Historical Theology, in which field I would get a master's degree years later. My parents and I also got a tour of and presentation on the college library which will be renovated and renamed after my maternal grandfather in the next three years.

Finally, I was able to celebrate my birthday and Father's Day (which were on consecutive days this year) with Tristan. Needless to say, my cup "ranneth over" during these past six weeks! 😊

And, oh, the reading! I read 12 of the 21 books I hoped to read. I knew in advance the list was too ambitious, but I did my best. I devoured books on scripture, the historic Black church, poverty/crime/injustice, forced separation of families at our nation's border, and biographies on medieval Jewish scholar Maimonides, NBA superstar Steph Curry, and pro wrestling figurehead Vince McMahon. Reading is my primary hobby, and I was able to fully indulge during this time.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the NC Synod, our staff and Church Council here, and all of you for affording me this grand opportunity. I needed it more than I realized, and I have returned refreshed. Thank you also to Pastor Peter Brown, who did a wonderful job in my absence, and whom everyone here really appreciated. Thank you, all! May God bless you abundantly this summer season.

Sharing the Love of Christ,

Pastor Tim



St. Philip Security Update

The new door and property security system has been installed.

Beginning on Sunday, July 7th, the church doors will be locked during worship services 15 minutes after the start.

There are now doorbells equipped with a camera and microphone at each of the doors, with an instructional sign. People who may arrive later will ring the doorbell to alert an Usher or Greeter to unlock the door.



Carpenter, Ron Mortis, friend of Paul Augustowski, repaired and refurbished the top of the Altar.
Thank you Ron & Paul!
Beautiful work!

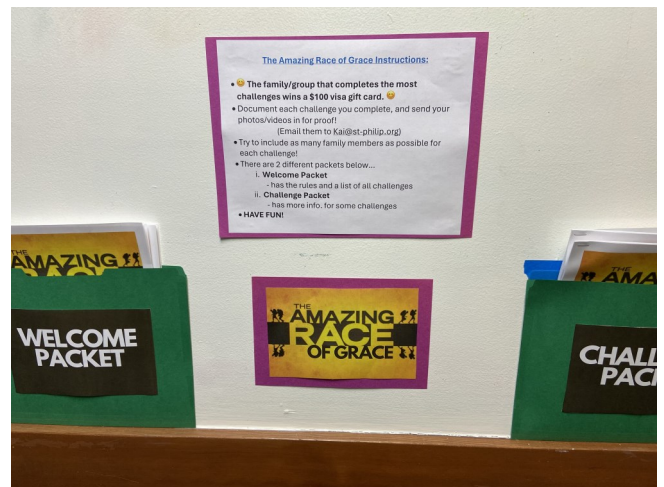


The Amazing Race of Grace Continues!

Are you ready for a summer full of fun challenges that incorporate faith for the whole family AND a chance to win a \$100 gift card?!? Welcome to the Amazing Race of Grace! This summer we have A LOT of different activities/challenges you can complete together as a family, with your grandkids, or as a group! They are for everyone and will be fun, help you grow in your faith, and in relationship with one another! Everyone is welcome to play!

The Amazing Race of Grace (in a nutshell)

This Amazing Race of Grace will officially run until Saturday, August 3rd. In that time your goal is to complete as many challenges as you can!



- ♥ Document each challenge you complete, and turn your photos/videos in for proof! (Email them to Kai@st-philip.org)
- ♥ **The family/group that completes the most challenges wins a \$100 visa gift card.**
- ♥ Try to include as many family members as possible for each challenge!
- ♥ Pick up packets in the office hallway to get started or email Kai@st-philip.org and we can send you a digital version!
- ♥ You can complete as many or as few challenges as you want to! It's completely up to your family. There are A LOT of options here – but don't feel overwhelmed by it!
- ♥ Have fun!

Outreach Highlights

Families Together Big News Update

We recently joined our partners and elected officials, Congressman Wiley Nickel and City Council Member Corey Branch, in taking a critical step forward for affordable housing in our community with the Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Bern Crossings, a 192-unit affordable housing development (in our neighborhood).

Families Together was chosen by Harmony Housing Affordable Development – the project developer – to be the support services coordinator when the community is completed about 18 months from now.

The New Bern Crossings project is a wonderful example of how our partnership with Families Together is making a greater life-changing impact for children and their families in our community.

Thank you so much for all you do to make our support of their mission possible!

Here's a link to the news coverage of this momentous occasion: [CBS 17 which is linked here](#)



Families Together Spring Campaign Update:

St. Philip helped to contribute over \$53,000 to help move families into secure homing situations in our community! Thank you so much!

Outreach Opportunities You Can Get Involved In:

Ongoing Opportunities to get Connected:

North Raleigh Ministries – Volunteer at the Food Pantry **(TOP NEED!)**

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



Reading Buddy Days with Refugee Children Sign-Ups:

July 8 & August 5 11am-12 noon.

Reading Buddy Day with Refugee Kids Day 1!

Date/Time: July 8 (11am-12pm)

Location: North Ridge Church

What We Will Be Doing: For 1 hour, you will sit down with one refugee kid at a time. The kids will pick a book that they want to read, and then they will sit with you and practice reading the story to you. You're there to be a support for them as they practice reading and practice their English. It's a very rewarding experience!

Sign-Up: You can sign up to help at this link [July 8](#) or by following the QR Code. We have 15 available spots!



Reading Buddy Day with Refugee Kids Day 2!

Date/Time: August 5 (11am-12pm)

Location: Imago Dei Church

Sign-Up: You can sign up to help at this link [August 5](#) or by following the QR Code. We have 15 available spots!



Camp Agapé Pool Appeal: Share the Love Campaign Update:

In March, St. Philip took part in a Triangle Conference wide appeal to help support Camp Agapé in their effort to raise funds to both build a new pool at the camp as their pool is over 35 years old, and to support the training of the wonderful summer staff that help to mold and shape the lives of children and youth that attend the summer camp programs throughout the year.

Our collective goal as a Triangle Conference of 9 participating congregations was a whopping stretch goal of raising \$171,000 for this effort. Collectively, we were able to raise a little more than \$138,000 between us (\$8,072.25 was given through St. Philip).

While we didn't quite meet our goal, the generosity of this congregation and our partners in the Triangle Conference have made it possible for Camp Agapé to begin to move forward with their efforts! Thank you so much for your support and your willingness to Share the Love!

Message from the Property Team

Dear Brady,

I am writing you to express our gratitude for the excellent Eagle project that you and Troop 342 completed May 11, 2024. The results are stellar and many of St. Philip members have commented on your effort and the beautiful outcome.

Your project included refurbishing a garden area next to the rear door of our education classroom building. This was an Eagle project from many years ago that had deteriorated and become covered with weeds.

You replaced the timbers lining the area and

removed all the weeds, treated soils and covered with weed barrier and pea gravel.

You also rebuilt a cross shaped flower bed in the corner of our parking lot by replacing all of the old timbers. All these improvements are obvious and greatly appreciated.

Members have commented to me about how beautiful the cross flower bed is and how clean the garden behind the building is now. The Property Ministry Committee is very grateful for your efforts. Thank you for such an excellent project.

Jerry Rimmer

Chairman of Property Ministry Committee
and BSA Institutional Representative

A Message from our Troop 342 & 342-G Scouts

The mission of Scouting is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.



While we have some of the finest, most talented, committed and dedicated adult leaders, we do need assistance. Please promote Scouting and specifically our/your Troops so that we can grow in numbers and minister to more youth. Please let us know if you are available to help at meetings, attend campouts, become a merit badge counselor, or help us at other events. Scouting has been part of St Philip Lutheran Church since the 1980s and we want to continue the legacy you fine people have helped facilitate. If you want more information to bring boys & girls in or perhaps to volunteer yourself, please contact Bill Drew, Troop 342 Scoutmaster at majdrew@gmail.com.

It has been a busy year with recruiting boys & girls along with re-establishing the Cub Scout Troop and welcoming a new leader for them. We hope you'll enjoy these photos of the troop in action!



Eagle Scout Projects

Brady Stinson led the rebuilding of the education building's back steps & the Garden Cross

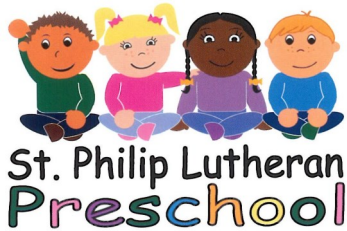
Chris Drew cleaned & refurbished the utility area behind the church

Mason Carver's project at Magellan Charter School included the building the owl house



Scoutmaster, Katie and Olivia, Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 342-G were inducted into Order of the Arrow, the Honor Society of Scouting America.





Although, the preschool is closed for the summer... we are busy at work!! We would love for you to spread the word about our loving and caring preschool!!

If you have a little one, friend or family that may be looking for a preschool this fall, we still have some openings. Please visit st-philip.org/preschool for more information about our program and the registration form. You may also call Leigh Anne Barham at 919-818-9585 for a tour or information.

As always, thank you St. Philip for opening your doors and loving us!!



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



SAVE THE DATE: North Raleigh Ministries (NRM) New Crisis & Development Center Grand Opening Oct. 1, 2024



NRM's Crisis & Development Center is moving to a new area where they hope to reach far more people in our community. They are currently open and helping residents in the North Raleigh area, but their grand opening celebration is on October 1st. Everyone in the congregation is invited to see this wonderful new facility and we hope you can make it.

More information will be shared as we get closer to the grand opening.

NRM Call for Help: 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!



Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday 7/16 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 or 919-302-1812

Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on August 27th at 10am in the Parlor.

We will be discussing *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes.

A Love Story for this generation, *Me Before You* brings to life two people who couldn't have less in common—a heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks, What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart?

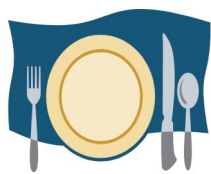
We hope to see you there!

Contact Kathryn Edwards for more info. itsmekge@gmail.com



Pub Ministry

Pub Ministry will not meet in July. Watch the August announcements for the next meeting place. Contact Dave Wahlstrom at dave00256@gmail.com to learn more.



We will meet at Piper's Tavern—
6:30 pm on 7/23/24

Questions?

contact Carol Rogers
parakayaker@gmail.com

Everyone is invited!!



12:00 pm on Thursday, July 4th

Salt & Lime Cabo Grill (Falls of Neuse Rd.)

Please contact Debbie Voress
for the reservation.
919- 782-2622

Every 1st Thursday!

Hope to see you there!

Back to School Collection Drive

July 1-31

This July we invite you to join us as we collect school supplies to support the families that our partner organizations (Refugee Hope Partners and Families Together) support. This year we are collecting the following items that can be dropped off at the church anytime this month! Look for the bins labeled "School Supply Drive."

We thank you for your generosity and willingness to help children in our community have a successful school year!

Supplies Needed:

- 75} Book Bags (35 Large and 40 Small)
- 500} #2 Pencils or Mechanical Pencils
- 500} Blue and Black Pens
- 75 boxes} Colored Pencils (12 count boxes)
- 75 boxes} Washable Markers (10 count boxes)
- 75 bottles} School Glue (4oz. bottles)
- 75 packs} Glue Sticks (4 or 6 pack)
- 75} Kid's Scissors
- 500} Block Erasers

- 300} Composition Notebooks
- 500} Plastic Pocket Folders (without prongs)
- 75 packs} Highlighters (packs of 4+)
- 50} Wide and College Ruled Filler Paper
- 75} 1 Subject Notebooks
- 75} 3 Subject Notebooks
- 75} 5 Subject Notebooks
- 75} 1" 3-Ring Binders
- 75} 2" 3-Ring Binders
- 75} Pencil Sharpeners
- 75} Pencil Bags
- 75} Rulers



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.

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,

Unfortunately, giving in May continued the negative trend for the year, being well under plan. So far this year our revenue is meaningfully below our approved budget.

For the month, total income was \$37,281, or \$15,319 under plan and expenses were \$54,525, or \$4,726 over plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$231,301, or \$32,249 under plan, while expenses were \$243,410, or \$18,840 under plan. Expenses have exceeded income by \$12,109.

While these results are disappointing, please know that our financial health remains strong. We have reserves that were built by meeting or exceeding our budget over the past several years and rest assured that bills are being paid timely! Nevertheless, to remain strong long term it is important that we strive to achieve our budgeted income and to manage our expenses prudently every year. Let's work together to make up the giving shortfall by the end of the year.

We thank God for you and your commitment to St. Philip and its 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.

				May, 2024 Financial Summary		
Giving	Actual	Plan	%			
May 2024	\$ 37,281	\$ 52,600	71%			
Year to Date	\$231,301	\$ 263,550	88%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$ 33,666	\$ 44,167	76%	\$230,044	\$235,113	98%
Other Income	\$ 3,615	\$ 8,433	43%	\$ 1,257	\$ 28,438	
Total Income	\$ 37,281	\$ 52,600	71%	\$231,301	\$263,550	88%
Expenses						
	\$ 54,526	\$ 49,800	109%	\$ 243,410	\$262,250	93%
Net Gain/(Loss)						
	\$ (17,245)	\$ (2,800)		\$ (12,109)	\$ 1,300	

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

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	3 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry	4 Office Closed 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm NA	5 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	6 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
7 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration	8 1:30 pm Staff 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	9 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	10	11 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Stewardship 6:30 pm NA	12 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	13 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir practice 7:00 pm AA
14 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration	15	16 9:30 am Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	17	18 6:30 pm NA	19 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	20 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
21 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration	22 1:30 pm Staff	23 6:30 pm Fellowship Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	24	25 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA	26 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	27 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
28 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration	29	30 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	31			



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

Kai Thurow
Outreach & Youth Ministries
Coordinator
Kai@st-philip.org

Regan Wang
Director of Worship & Music
Ministries
Regan@st-Philip.org

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

Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

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

[Facebook](#)
St. Philip Lutheran
Church, Raleigh



Twitter
[@St_PhilipELCA](#)



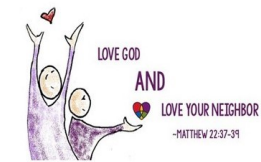
[Instagram](#)
stplcraleigh



St. Philip Lutheran Church

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919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org



WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST!

Be KIND.
EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

SERVE
others.

1 PETER 4:10, NIV

HONOR
Christ *the* Lord.
1 PETER 3:15, ESV