

The Epistle

October, 2024

St. Philip Lutheran Church



Pastor's Message

October is always Stewardship season for us here at St. Philip. This year, our theme is "Moving Forward Together," and we have an exciting kick-off for you this Sunday. After a few weeks of prayer and reflection, our "Commitment Sunday" will be on October 20, when we will ask for your Estimate of Giving cards (otherwise known as pledges) to be turned in.

To begin with, I would like to thank you all for your faithful and generous financial giving this year. We are slightly ahead of schedule as it concerns our pledged income for this year, and that is almost unheard of, so I call that to your attention so that we may celebrate that fact.

On top of that, you have responded in an extraordinary manner to our Families Together spring campaign, our Camp Agape fundraiser, our Back to School supply drive, and finally, our Pub Ministry-sponsored food drive for North Raleigh Ministries. Because of your abundant and sacrificial giving, homeless families now have homes, summer campers will soon have a pool in which to swim, students in need have all their necessary supplies, and hungry people have been fed. We are an amazing group of disciples here who joyfully respond to the needs of our community and God's Kingdom.

Because we adopted an aggressive budget this year, however, we are still behind in necessary funds. Our expenses have exceeded our income so far. If you are able to increase your giving to our ministry here, we would please ask you to consider doing so. The vital work of our mission continues.

As many of you know, I have served small congregations in economically challenged areas for years. Resources in those places were stretched thin, to say the least, and oftentimes the ministries barely survived.

I was reminded of that reality recently when I saw a post of a pastoral colleague and friend in Philadelphia concerning his church. It read, "Relief is here! Perspire no more, for our air conditioning has been successfully repaired. Although we might not need it for too much longer this season, it's good to know that things are working properly. Unfortunately, there's been a cost -- \$7,000 to be exact. We used funds from our reserves for the cost of this repair, but this has made our financial cushion uncomfortably thin. It will be necessary to replace the funds we've spent, so we hope all our members will consider pitching in by making a special donation to help replenish our reserves and getting us back on sound financial footing." Can you imagine having to go to your reserves for a cost of \$7,000? And then having that mere amount represent a threat to your financial viability and very existence? I remember those (not so far off) days well and thank God that I have been spoiled by comparison over the past five years to serve a church with over a half million-dollar budget and healthy reserves. I say all that to remind ourselves how blessed we are here at St. Philip in so many ways, including ample financial resources.

Let us **Move Forward Together** in faith and discipleship.

Let us **Move Forward Together** in Word and Sacrament.

Let us **Move Forward Together** in love and fellowship.

Let us **Move Forward Together** in thanksgiving and prayer.

Let us **Move Forward Together** in inspiration and momentum.

Let us **Move Forward Together** in generous giving of our time, talents, and treasures.

Let us **Move Forward Together** in **Sharing the Love of Christ!**

Pastor Tim

Moving Forward Together

2024 Stewardship Campaign



Our 2024 Stewardship theme is Moving Forward Together

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 3:13-14*

Inspired by this familiar passage from Philippians, our 2024 Stewardship Campaign theme is Moving Forward Together. As we look to our future and strive to build upon the growth and expanded ministries we have experienced, we are asking the congregation to help us write the next chapter for St. Philip by filling out the [2024 Questionnaire](#). This will be invaluable information for determining our priorities and formulating a budget to fund our ministries.

As with any Stewardship campaign, there is always a significant financial need to support the mission of our faith community, and we ask you to prayerfully consider how you want to respond to that need. There are also many other ways besides financial for each one of us to contribute while strengthening our personal relationship with God.

Each Sunday morning offers opportunities to serve in one of our worship venues by helping to set up for Communion, serving as a greeter or usher, assisting in the worship service, singing in the choir, or cleaning up afterward. Assisting with the technical recording and broadcasting of our services allows us to reach beyond our church building.

During the week there are numerous opportunities to use our time and talents such as assisting in Brown Bag Ministries and coat collection, cleaning Families Together apartments, collecting food for North Raleigh Ministries, and working on Clean Up Day. These opportunities and many others build on our sense of community while serving others and being good stewards.

After prayerfully considering how you will respond to our needs and ministries, please complete the Estimate of Giving Card and either bring it to church, mail it in, or [online HERE](#). All of these options are confidential. Celebration Sunday will be held on October 20th when we will give thanks for all pledges submitted and for the many blessings we have received.

The ongoing ministry here at St. Philip depends on your regular financial support as well as the many ways you contribute with your time and talents. We thank God for every one of you and pray that you will be blessed and inspired to share the love of Christ.

The Stewardship Committee appreciates you for your valuable input to Moving Forward Together to determine where God is calling us to go in ministry.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Philip,
Stewardship Committee

Pastor Tim Poston
Wayland Smedley
Joe Edwards
Dave Wahlstrom
Frank Bouknight



October 6, 2024
at
both Worship Services
for the 2025
Congregation Council
Nominations

Outreach Highlights

THANK YOU! Food Drive Collection Success!

This September, St. Philip did a Food Collection Drive to support the NRM Food Pantry. We had an overwhelmingly positive response!

On God's Work, Our Hands Sunday we had a caravan of seven vehicles filled with food donations deliver what we collected to the NRM Food Pantry. Along with the amount of food & hygiene items we donated (which more than doubled what we collected last year) we also delivered a check for

\$3,400. We have another check that will be delivered once we're able to get a final count on how much was donated for the Food Drive.

We can't thank you enough for your generosity this fall! **It's estimated that the food & hygiene items we collected will help roughly 75+ Families as they seek to move from crisis to stability in our community!** And that doesn't count the monetary donations yet!



Refugee Hope Partner's (RHP) Coat Collection & Sale



St. Philip's Brown Bag Ministries (BBM) has partnered with Refugee Hope Partners (RHP) to help collect coats for the refugee community at Cedar Point and in Wake County.

We are collecting coats until November 8. In early November (date TBD), we plan to send a group of volunteers to help with RHP's Coat Sale. This sale is an opportunity for those who need coats for the colder weather this coming winter to get quality coats for just a few dollars.

Please prayerfully consider if you can donate any new or gently used coats of any size. You can drop them in the labeled bins found in the office hallway, in Luther Hall, or in the Narthex.

Additionally, if you are interested in volunteering to help make the Coat Sale a success email Kai at Kai@st-philip.org

Outreach Opportunities You Can Get Involved In Today!



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

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

God is good all of the time...All of the time God is good!

This wonderful family of faith at St. Philip once again showed how we are sharing the Love of Christ through the amazing amount of food and money that you donated for the Food Bank at North Raleigh Ministries.

Your love and concern and volunteerism and your multitude of donations are making the lives of the people that we directly or indirectly touch a bit easier. Your love and support for the Food Bank and Families Together, Brown Bag Ministries and St. Philip's Mission is a blessing from God to us and our Outreach Partners and God's children we touch.

Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you,
The Pub Ministry



New Members Class

November 2, 2024 10 am–12:00

Why bother with formally uniting with a church?

Being part of a faith community can be described as our opportunity to grasp hold of each other in responsibility and love.

In uniting with church you: Make visible your commitment to Christ and his people.

Enter into a relationship of mutual accountability. When we join a church we offer ourselves to one another to be challenged, encouraged, loved, and strengthened. Make

promises to practice the spiritual disciplines of daily prayer, active service, weekly worship, regular Bible study, on-going fellowship, and generous giving within and through a particular community of faith.

Learning about St. Philip

If you would like to learn more about St. Philip membership, come join this class! There is no obligation to join however, this class is designed to help start the journey to being active in the ministries of St. Philip.

Becoming part of a faith community like St Philip is a big step but you do not take this step alone. The Holy Spirit has brought you to this place and we look forward to the ministry that we can do together. To help us plan for materials and supplies for this class, please sign up [Click Here](#) or call the church office.

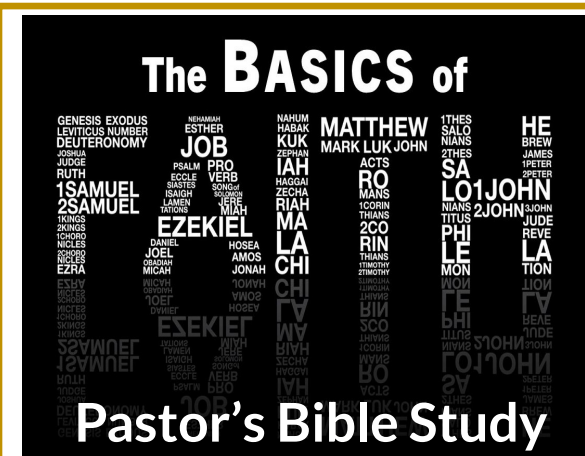
On Wednesdays at 10:30 am & 6:45 pm in the music room.

Our topics will include the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, the Holy Spirit (the fruit and gifts of), Faith, Tithing, Preaching, Sabbath, Healing, Justice, Transformation, and Music.

We anticipate continued high attendance and spirited conversation. Although we strongly encourage in-person attendance, we will also offer a Zoom option.

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

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



Trunk-or-Treat Oct. 27

Trunk-or-Treat is coming up on Sunday, October 27th.

We hope that you & your family can plan to join us anytime between 3-5pm.

We're also looking for a few volunteers.

WHAT: Trunk-or-Treat!

We're hoping to have anywhere from 10-20 trunks for this event as well as some yard games & some fall apple cider.

Wear your costumes and come out for a fun-filled family outing.

WHEN:

Sunday, Oct. 27 3-4:30 pm

WHERE:

St. Philip Lutheran Church Parking Lot

I'M INTERESTED IN HELPING: That's great!

We need volunteers who are willing to do any of the following (even if just for a bit)

...

Decorate a Trunk (simple is fine, or you can go ALL-OUT)

Bring some Yard Games for us to use for the afternoon (cornhole, ladder golf, croquet, slam jam, spikeball etc.)

Help at our cookie & cider table

Donate individually wrapped candies for our trunks!

If you are interested in helping, please contact Kai@st-philip.org

OR you sign up [HERE](#)



A Message from our Troop 342 & 342-G Scouts

Troop 342 proudly announces that Brady Stinson and Christian Drew are now officially Eagle Scouts! As friends for several years, they held a joint ceremony and celebration.

Pictures show their parents conferring Eagle pins, neckerchiefs, and slides. Both young men remain involved with the Troop as Assistant Scoutmasters.

Congratulations to Brady and Christian!

Feel free to visit a meeting any Tuesday at 7.

For further information, contact Bill Drew at 919-623-6725.

POPCORN! GET YOUR TRAILS END POPCORN!

*Now through mid-November.

*Each Scout's goal is \$360 in sales.

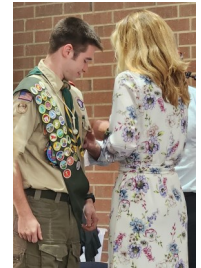
*Contact your favorite Scout or see Jane Gue in the church office.

(Any orders placed through Ms. Jane will be credited to individual Scouts.)

*Donate some or all of your order to the Heroes and Helpers program, serving military personnel, first responders, and food banks.



Christian Drew



Brady Stinson

Family Ministries

Family Ministry: For families with children grades 5 and under!

Join us twice a month for our Family Ministry designed to engage parents' children ages 0 through grade 5. This new ministry model is designed to empower and support families in nurturing their faith together in an approachable format.

Our goal is for this ministry to provide a place where families can gather, connect, and grow together.

To do this, we are planning to use a parent-centered approach that models faith, builds community, addresses the growing sense of parental loneliness and burnout in our society, and promotes healthy child development in a safe space.

This month join us on Sunday afternoons, October 6 & 22 from 3:30-5:15pm. We end our time together with a simple meal!

For additional information or if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kai@st-philip.org

Children/Youth & Family Calendar

October

- | | | |
|------|--|-------------------------|
| 5 - | YouthQuake (grades 3-5) | 10am-3pm |
| 6 - | Family Ministry w/ Dinner (birth-grade 5 + parents/guardians)
Youth Group (grades 6-12) | 3:30-5:15pm
6-7:30pm |
| 13 - | NO programming | |
| 20 - | Family Ministry w/ Dinner (birth-grade 5 + parents/guardians)
Youth Group (grades 6-12) | 3:30-5:15pm
6-7:30pm |
| 27 - | Trunk-or-Treat (all ages) | 3-5pm |



St. Philip Lutheran Preschool

St. Philip Lutheran Preschool is off to a great start with 74 children enrolled!

October is an exciting and fun-filled month as we talk about Fall and harvest time! A field trip for the 4- and 5-year-old classes to the State Farmer's Market is coming up soon!! We will buy apples and pumpkins that everyone will enjoy!

Also, the preschool honors our fantastic DADS when we have Donuts for Dads later in the month. The dads will visit their child's classroom, have a donut, and enjoy being in a classroom setting with their little one!

There will also be a time for our families to purchase high quality books at our Usborne/PaperPie Book Fair on October 1st and 2nd.

The end of October brings lots of fun as the children dress up in their favorite Halloween costumes, not too scary though... and have a fun, Fall party.

If you ever want to be filled with JOY, then visit our wonderful preschool!

Snapshots



Multigenerational Faith Formation
5-15 min. after worship

Snapshots

> A New Multigenerational Faith Formation Opportunity—
for all ages! <

Everyone is invited to make Snapshots a regular part of your Sunday morning rhythm beginning this month.

Each Sunday, following the worship service we will have 2 self-guided stations for you to engage in as individuals, families, or with a group of people. You can find them in the back of the worship areas following each service. These “Snapshots” are designed to take anywhere from 5-15 minutes depending on how much conversation people want to have.

This faith formation opportunity is designed for all ages to engage in a very brief conversation/activity centered on the Scripture reading(s) for the day.

The Impact of God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday!

THANK YOU!

We had a wonderful Sunday filled with Worship, Lunch, Fellowship & Service Projects that saw over 85 people participate!

Here’s what we were able to do together!

- ♥ We packed 100 **Blessing Bags** to help folks in the community asking for assistance!
- ♥ We moved 45+ **Quilts** made by our quilters in preparation for their upcoming blessing that will support Lutheran World Relief!
- ♥ We made A LOT of **cards** with the Card Ministry Team to help people celebrate their birthdays, anniversaries, and more!
- ♥ We had a caravan of seven vehicles deliver the food & hygiene items from our September **Food Drive** to the NRM Food Pantry along with a \$3,400 check!
- ♥ We packed 18 **College Care Packages** for our St. Philip College Students!



A Celebration of Music
Friday, October 18th at 7:00

Presenting
Paul & Sophia Chandley



Two pianos
Four Hands
Two Hearts



Ministry Needs:

The Columbarium/Memorial Garden Team—
We need additional folks on the team! Contact Mary Ellen Wrisley for more information at 919-395-5727

Offer a warm hello—Please see the sign up sheet to be a greeter on a Sunday morning! It is a great way to get to know folks and to offer hospitality to all our brothers and sisters! Learn more by contacting Barbara Sullivan text or call: 919-271-3283 or barbarabsullivan@gmail.com.

Help broadcast our worship services— St. Philip worship services reach on average 40-50 people each week online, via Facebook, Zoom and YouTube! Their worship experience is also accessed beyond the live streaming! The A/V teams for *both services* are in need of more volunteers to increase the rotation and lighten the load on the 3-4 people who serve every week. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Contact [Regan Wang](#), [Don Alexander](#) or [Jane](#) in the office to learn more!



You are invited to a yummy luncheon on October 8th at 11:30 in Luther Hall.

Josh Starling of North Raleigh ministries will bring us news and videos about what North Raleigh Ministries is doing for the people who come to their pantry and their counseling centers and it will be an exciting program and telling us about all the things that they do with the pantry items that we have collected during September.

Please RSVP for planning purposes to Carole Mason at 919-210-0727 by 10/4/24. Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday 10/15 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



Join us at 12:00 pm on Thursday, October 3rd at Piper's Tavern on Falls of Neuse Rd. Please contact Debbie Voress for the reservation. 919-782-2622

Every 1st Thursday!
Hope to see you there!



We will meet on Tuesday—10/22/24 @ 6:30 pm Watch your email for the October restaurant Questions? contact Carol Rogers parakayaker@gmail.com

NORTH
RALEIGH
MINISTRIES

Pub Ministry

Pub Ministry will meet on Tuesday, October 22nd, 6:30 pm at the **Saints & Scholars**.

Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to Dave Wahlstrom at dave00256@gmail.com.

Help solve a mystery.....

Bring this Gift Card to

Pastor Tim & receive \$5.00!

(while supplies last)



Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 10/22 at 10am in the Parlor. We will be discussing *Cold Dish* by Craig Johnson.

Johnson draws on his deep attachment to the American West to produce a literary mystery of stunning authenticity, and full of memorable characters. After twenty-five years as sheriff of Absaroka County, Walt Longmire's hopes of finishing out his tenure in peace are dashed when Cody Pritchard is found dead near the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Two years earlier, Cody has been one of four high school boys given suspended sentences for raping a local Cheyenne girl. Somebody, it would seem, is seeking vengeance, and Longmire might be the only thing standing between the three remaining boys and a Sharps .45-70 rifle.

We hope to see you there! Contact Kathryn Edwards for more info. itsmekge@gmail.com





A St Philip Golf outing is being planned— for cooler weather in October!

We had a number of you—men and women— that were interested in playing earlier in the summer but our original date didn't work due to vacations, other conflicts, the heat, etc.

Based on the earlier interest, I have reserved 4 tee times (16 golfers) for Saturday, October 26 at 11:20 - 11:50am at Wildwood Green Golf Club off Strickland Road. If we get more than 16 golfers, I will press to get more tee times. Please email or call John Sullivan by Sunday, October 13 to reserve your spot for this October 26th Fellowship opportunity—

jsull77@gmail.com call or text 919-939-7653. 🏏 ♂ 🎸

Cup of Joy— This fellowship ministry opportunity is being revived! Beginning this month, please take a few minutes after worship to enjoy a cup of coffee—or tea—and chat with your fellow worshippers!

This year Council set a goal of having conversations with members & friends to listen to people's desires and hopes for St. Philip. One of the main themes that many people have mentioned is to have more Fellowship time together.

Sharing a Cup of Joy on Sunday mornings after worshipping and praising God makes sense and gives us all an opportunity to Share the Love of Christ!



Council Elections Sunday 10/27/24



The Property Team
requests that members assist with this effort.

We will be polishing pews and other woodwork, washing windows, trimming shrubs, pulling weeds and other needed tasks—readying the property for winter. Come on out—you'll feel good about working with your church family! We need all hands on deck! Questions? Contact Jerry Rimmer @ djrimmer@bellsouth.net

Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

August was the first month this year that income met or exceeded our monthly budget, but as I outlined at each service on September 15, we are substantially behind plan for the year.

For the month, total income was \$56,286, or \$3,686 over plan while expenses were \$59,498, or \$9,198 over plan. The large overage in expenses was due to the cost of replacing an HVAC unit. In an earlier monthly period, a designated donation for HVAC replacement was recorded as a negative expense. As a result, the HVAC expense line item is within budget for the year. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$373,020, or \$48,331 under plan, while expenses were \$398,569, or \$19,331 under plan. Expenses have exceeded income by \$25,550.

As noted during the services earlier this month, we project that we will have a significant shortfall of income compared to expenses and not be able to fund budgeted reserves this year. Hopefully, with your generosity and God's blessings, we can do better than the projections and close the gap some. We ask for your prayers for our finances as we close the year and also for wisdom and discernment as we begin the budget process for 2025 very soon.

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

Blessings,
Jim Beck



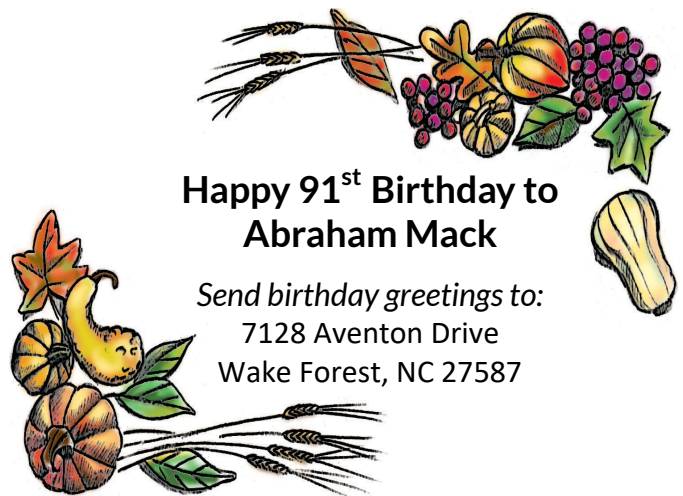
August, 2024 Financial Summary

Giving						
	Actual	Plan	%			
August 2024	\$ 56,286	\$ 52,600	107%			
Year to Date	\$373,020	\$ 421,351	89%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$ 52,682	\$ 44,167	119%	\$342,652	\$353,333	97%
Other Income	\$ 3,604	\$ 8,433	43%	\$ 30,368	\$ 68,018	45%
Total Income	\$ 56,286	\$ 52,600	107%	\$373,020	\$421,351	89%
Expenses						
	\$ 59,498	\$ 50,300	118%	\$ 398,569	\$417,901	95%
Net Gain/(Loss)						
	\$ (3,212)	\$ 2,300		\$ (25,550)	\$ 3,450	

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



John & Shari Foil	10/1/1989	35th
Dan Heyl & Sylvia Saenger	10/11/1986	38th
Spencer & Sondra Phillips	10/14/2000	24th
Amir & Anne Mehr	10/19/1996	28th
Kelun & Regan Wang	10/20/2020	4th
John & Suzanne Zeok	10/25/1969	55th
Jeffrey & Tracey Kaiser	10/30/2023	1st



- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10/1 Inge Mokros | 10/11 Kathryn Edwards | 10/24 Anthony Ubertini |
| 10/3 Don Alexander | 10/11 Edward Metivier | 10/26 Laura Walser |
| 10/3 Linda Shapiro | 10/11 Abraham Mack | 10/26 Joel Kepley |
| 10/4 Regan Wang | 10/13 Lana Sanders | 10/26 Leah Foil |
| 10/4 Mike Davis | 10/17 Katie Snyder | 10/28 Jim Bell |
| 10/4 Joey Casadonte | 10/18 Martha Bouknight | 10/29 Russ Lehman |
| 10/7 Jane Gue | 10/18 Joanne Andrews | 10/29 Anne Howard |
| 10/7 Kaden Thurow | 10/21 Barbara Sullivan | 10/30 Frank Bouknight |
| 10/8 Catalina Fagan | 10/21 Laura Bunte | 10/31 Jake Gibson |
| 10/9 Ron Ubertini | 10/21 Heather Kindl | |
| 10/9 Rowan Kindl | 10/22 Allen Hewett | |
| 10/10 Timothy Shermer | 10/23 Holly Attanasio | |
| 10/10 Charlotte Coley | 10/24 Dianne Rimmer | |



Sunday Morning Worship
9:00 am – Crossing Contemporary

11:00 am – Traditional style

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
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Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

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

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St. Philip Lutheran Church

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Pray
for those
impacted
by Hurricane Helene.

