



MAY 2025



www.St-Philip.org

#### Pastor's Message

I would like to share some good news with you: Jesus is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

We had a magnificent Holy Week and Easter celebration of resurrection this year. As a matter of fact, we had the highest monthly worship attendance in the (over) five years I've been here, at an average of 224 people! We had only been above 200 once before, at 201. My first thought was, well, that's due to Palm Sunday and Easter, until I realized they happen every year!

A colleague of mine just told me over lunch that he had researched the statistics online of all the Raleigh Lutheran churches (and suspects it may be true for the Triangle) and had discovered that St. Philip was the only one whose post-Covid worship attendance was higher than its pre-Covid attendance. Everyone else, he said, seemed to have around 70 percent of what they had before the pandemic. I thought that was phenomenal and wanted to share that with you.

We celebrated Jane Gue for Administrative Professionals Day with a large card signed by many, a bouquet of flowers, and a gift. Thank you so much for all you do for us here, Jane! We also celebrated the memory of Dave Wahlstrom by renaming our Pub Ministry "Dave's Pub Ministry" and presenting Betty and their family a resolution to that effect and picture of Dave signed by many of us and framed. We are so thankful for his legacy and his family among us.

We are looking forward to our next New Members Class on Saturday, May 17, from 10 am until noon. We expect a group of anywhere from six to 13 people. I am very excited about this particular group because of the different walks of life they all come from.

We are concluding a wonderful two-year Bible study on the theme "The Basics of the Christian Faith." Together, we have studied the following topics: the 10 Commandments, the 8 Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, Prayer in general, Belief and the Creeds (Apostle's and Nicene), Baptism, Communion, Scripture (the organization of), Theology, History, Worship,

the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, the Holy Spirit (fruit of and gifts of), Faith, Tithing, Preaching, Sabbath, Healing, Justice, Transformation, and are closing out with Music. I am so thankful for all who have attended and participated over the last two years. We have learned much from one another and the Word of God. Stay tuned for a new theme when we resume Bible study in the fall.

This year's Families Together (FT) Spring Campaign kicks off this coming Sunday, May the 4th. As one of seven churches that started this over 40 years ago, we always encourage strong participation from St. Philip members. As you know by now, FT's mission is to move people who are experiencing homelessness into secure and stable homes. This is a critical need in our city currently. Over the past four years, St. Philip has contributed \$30 thousand, \$60 thousand, \$146 thousand, and \$82 thousand, respectively. We've grown rapidly in our generosity. This year, we are setting a goal of \$100 thousand, and we encourage your selfless and sacrificial giving. We are honored that our own Mike Fagan has faithfully chaired the FT Board of Directors for two years now.

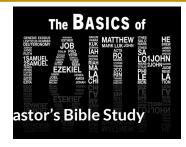
When I heard that we are one of seven local Lutheran churches to have begun this ministry, I instantly thought of the "letters to the seven churches" which in essence begins the book of Revelation. In five of the letters, God says to each church "I know your works." In the remaining two, God says essentially the same thing. The point is that God sees and knows what each church is doing, whether right or wrong, and in need of encouragement or correction. I believe that God is saying this to St. Philip right now: "I know your works." God sees and knows that we are doing our best to "share the love of Christ" in all our words and actions. God sees and knows that we have an increasing spirit of generosity to help all our neighbors in need to the best of our ability. God knows that we will contribute to Families Together bountifully to see that families are safely housed. And God is pleased.

Sharing the Love of Christ, Pastor Tim



## Tuesday, May 13th 6-7:30 pm

Grab dinner or just bring a snack and join us in the Music Room on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm. We meet to discuss our losses, support each other, and to share our experience, strength, and hope with each other after the loss of a loved one.



Two more Bible Study classes before summer break on Wednesdays at 10:30 am & 6:45 pm (5/21 & 5/28)

Although we strongly encourage in-person attendance, we will also offer a Zoom option.

Zoom in the Morning: <u>Click Here</u> Zoom in the Evening: <u>Click Here</u>



# May 17th Saturday 10-12:00

We give thanks for the newcomers that God brings into this faith community! The New Members Class is an intentional time for people who are new to St. Philip to learn more about this faith community. It's a time to meet others who are newcomers, learn more about the Lutheran tradition, and spend time with Pastor Tim and congregation leaders. Becoming part of a faith community

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.

St. Philip is a congregation with many and various ministries. This offers lots of opportunities for you to be involved and many ways as you use your God-given gifts and skills in service to others and to the glory of God.

**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. To help us plan for materials and supplies for this class, please sign up **Click Here** or call the church office.



#### St. Philip Family,

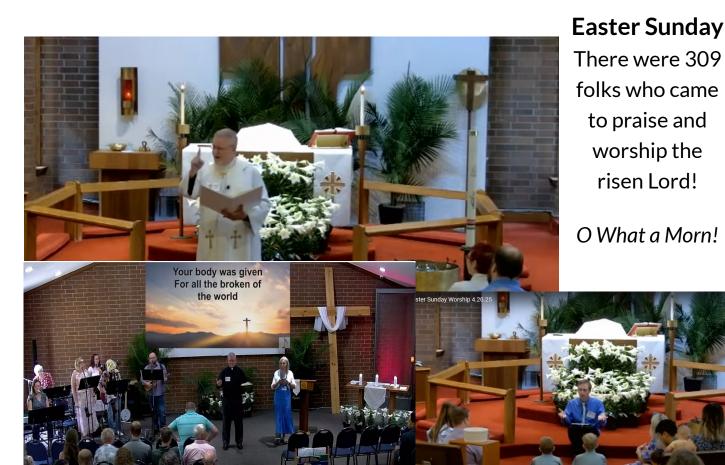
My family and I express our sincere, heartfelt gratitude for the many prayers, warmth and love we have felt during this time surrounding Dave's passing. We have appreciated each and every card, hug, and smile. It all has been so helpful as we navigate this tough time.

To the Men of the Pub Ministry - There are not enough words to thank you for your totally unexpected and unimaginable honor you have given to Dave.

We have been overwhelmed trying to process this gift. He dearly loved the Pub and the planning, communications, and camaraderie he enjoyed with all of you.

Thank you for all of these many blessings, Betty Wahlstrom, Tad, Abby, Kurt, Suzanne, Ella, Annaliese, Bradley and Luke

## Moments at St. Philip in April



## Saint & Sinners



Guest speakers from Springmoor to talk about a new program for home health care.

## Folks celebrating the Easter Season



## **Outreach Highlights**



#### **Outreach Focus for May: Families Together Spring Fundraiser**

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

Did you know that the average rent in Raleigh has gone up by 52% in the past 5 years?

Or that in that same time frame, there has be a 200% increase in those experiencing homelessness in Raleigh?

Or that this year alone 8,000 children are expected to live without a stable home?

In 2024, FT was able to help a little over 200 families move from a crisis situation into stable housing through a holistic approach that has a 98% long-term success rate! That is absolutely incredible. However, the great work that FT does isn't free. It costs roughly \$10,000 to move a family through this process. Over the last four years, St. Philip led efforts we've donated over \$500,000 to help house at least 50 families through FT! We're becoming known as a congregation that rises to the occasion

This year, we look forward to partnering with FT once again to help fight family homelessness in our community. Starting on Sunday, May 4, St. Philip will be sharing some additional information about FT, their mission, and some facts about homelessness in our community as we ask you to once again, prayerfully consider giving to support this great cause.

We've set an ambitious goal to raise \$100,000 to support Families Together this year.

This won't be possible without a strong show of community support. We're asking you to help us build the foundation so that Families Together can continue to do its incredible work in our community.

We know we can reach this goal — because we've already secured commitments from a group of generous supporters who believe deeply in this mission. But there's a catch: they're challenging us to show that our broader faith community is behind this effort before they fully release their funds. In short: every dollar you give this month brings us closer to unlocking a total of \$100,000 and housing 10 families.

Your gift is more than a donation — it's a signal that this mission matters, and it will help activate a powerful wave of support for those experiencing homelessness in our community.

If you feel 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 OR via check. Please indicate in the comments/memo section that the gift is for Families Together.
  - St. Philip Giving Link: <a href="https://st-philip.org/giving/">https://st-philip.org/giving/</a>
- **Giving directly to Families Together** Online. Please indicate that you are connected to St. Philip Lutheran Church in the comments.
  - FT Giving Link: <a href="https://familiestogethernc.org/general-donation">https://familiestogethernc.org/general-donation</a>

#### **Ongoing Opportunities to get connected:**

(BBM) – Brown Bagin Ministries food donations of Salty & Sweet Snacks (through a generous partnership with The Cypress of Raleigh Retirement Center, we have all the fruit donations we need!)

(RHP) - Brown Bag Ministries on the 2nd & 4th Saturday's each month

(NRM) - Volunteer at the Food Pantry

(NRM) - Volunteer at the Thrift Shoppe(s)

(RHP) - Volunteer for the "Homework Help Program"

(FT) - Volunteer to help with FT's Meal Ministry every 3rd Thursday 5-7pm



#### St. Philip's Brown Bag Ministry (BBM) Needs Your Help



In our effort to help reduce rising food insecurity in our community, our BBM needs your help.

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday, our BBM packs 430 meals that are then delivered to Refugee Families in our community. Each lunch that is packed includes a sandwich, fruit, a salty snack, and a sweet snack.

There are donation collection bins available for you to drop off any of the following items for an ongoing basis. **Items we need help collecting:** 

- SALTY SNACK: Chips; Cheese Crackers; Pretzels; Popcorn
   (we try to avoid Peanut Butter Crackers since the sandwiches are often PB Sandwiches)
- SWEET SNACK: Granola bars; Cookies; etc.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please reach out to either Stacey Bell at <a href="mailto:raleighbells@gmail.com">raleighbells@gmail.com</a> or to Kai Thurow at <a href="mailto:Kai@st-philip.org">Kai@st-philip.org</a>

**The Dave Wahlstrom Men's Pub Ministry** (formerly St. Philip Men's Pub Ministry) met on April 22nd at Bad Daddy's Burger Bar with 20 attendees. A great time was had by all.

On April 27th, we honored our beloved leader, Dave Wahlstrom, at the 11:00 service with a proclamation to rename our ministry "Dave Wahlstrom Men's Pub Ministry" and affectionately be known as "Dave's Pub Ministry". We also presented Betty and her family with a picture of Dave signed by all members of the Pub. Dave was our leader, our friend, our mentor, our rock, and our visionary.

We encourage all golfers to sign up for the Agape/Kure Beach Ministries Golf Outing on May 19th. Please contact John Sullivan to sign up. <u>John Sullivan</u> (jsull77@gmail.com)

The next Pub meeting will be a big one: a joint couples' dinner with the Women's Fellowship Ministry on May 27th at Milton's Pizza and Pasta at 6:30. We anticipate a large turnout to honor our spouses/ significant others.

The Pub Ministry men turned out in good numbers for the church spring property work day on April 5th. Lots of service projects and fellowship events are planned, so be on the lookout for future announcements. These include, but not limited to, the fall North Raleigh Ministries campaign, two work days at NRM in September and October, and two Sunday cooking opportunities on the 5th Sunday fellowship luncheons in June and August.

The Pub Ministry aspires to carry on the legacy of Dave Wahlstrom in both fellowship and service. We invite all men of St. Philip to join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month for Christian fellowship and a great meal.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Edwards

#### **Boundary Awareness!**

On May 20 at 7:00 PM, as part of our Stephen Ministry continuing education program for St. Philip and the Triangle Area Stephen Ministry Network (TASMN), St. Philip will host Beth Pfitzenmaier, MS, LCAS, a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Professional from SouthLight (<a href="https://southlight.org">https://southlight.org</a>), who will present a session on boundary awareness and boundary setting.

Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are actively involved in Stephen Ministry! Boundaries are not a bad word, and this presentation will explore what boundaries are and what they are not, why they're important, and ways to set them. If you'd like to learn more about setting and managing boundaries, please come and join us in Kepley Hall and RSVP to Dan Heyl to let us know you plan on attending.

#### Family Ministry April Calendar

(Families with children Grade 5 and under)



All families with children grade 5 and under are invited to join us for a late afternoon where we check in with each other, sing a song or two, have some kid friendly learning + crafts + and free play games, adult conversation about a podcast or book of the Bible, and a family meal afterwards! For more information, please contact <a href="Mailto:Kai@st-philip.org">Kai@st-philip.org</a>

5/4 – Family Ministry w/ Dinner 3:30-5pm

5/18 - End of Year Cookout 5pm

#### Youth Group April Calendar

(Grades 5-12)



Middle and High School can be messy — and we join in the mess with laughs, authentic community, and creativity. Our youth group normally gathers once a month for fun, faith talk, and fellowship with one another. For more information, please contact <a href="Mailto:Kai@st-philip.org">Kai@st-philip.org</a>

5/3 - (Saturday) ParTee Shack Day (Mingolf + Arcade) 10am

5/18 - End of Year Cookout 5pm

#### Sign up for Summer Camp!



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.





#### **SAVE THE DATE:** Agapé Day Camp July 7-11

This summer, St. Philip is partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh for our Agapé Day Camp week July 7-11.

All current Kindergarten-5th grade youth (rising 1st-6th graders) are eligible to attend.

Day Camp days take place at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh and 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, skits, crafts, nature activities, Bible Studies, service projects, and lots more!

Trained summer staff from Agapé Kure Beach Ministries come to Good Shepherd to lead and host the program.

Registration Information will be emailed soon, so keep an eye out for it!  $\odot$ 



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 "Let's Go to the Farm" will be held on Friday, May 16 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 2025-2026 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!









### Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 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. <a href="mailto:bouknightf@yahoo.com">bouknightf@yahoo.com</a> or 919-302-1812



Join us at 12:00 pm on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at Outback Steakhouse (Triangle Center)

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

Every 1st Thursday! Hope to see you there!

#### **Pub Ministry**

The Pub Ministry Group & The Fellowship Supper Group will meet on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>May 27<sup>th</sup></u>, 6:30 pm at Milton's Pizza on Six Forks Rd.

Everyone is welcome!

Let Joe Edwards know if you plan to attend for reservations. edwardsja@aol.com

#### **Adult Book Club**

#### Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>5/27 at 10am</u> in the Parlor. We will be discussing *Lovely One* by Ketanji Brown Jackson

With this unflinching account, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson invites readers into her life and world, tracing her family's ascent from segregation to her confirmation on America's highest court within the span of one generation.



Named "Ketanji Onyika," meaning "Lovely One," based on a suggestion from her aunt, a Peace Corps worker

stationed in West Africa, Justice Jackson learned from her educator parents to take pride in her heritage since birth. She describes her resolve as a young girl to honor this legacy and realize her dreams.

Contact Kathryn Edwards for more info. <a href="mailto:itsmekge@gmail.com">itsmekge@gmail.com</a>



We will meet with the Pub Ministry men on Tuesday—5/27/25 @ 6:30 pm at Milton's Pizza on Six Forks Rd.

Let Joe Edwards know if you plan to attend for reservations. edwardsia@aol.com

Questions? contact Carol Rogers parakayaker@gmail.com



You are invited to a yummy luncheon on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 11:30 in Luther Hall

You can expect a delicious lunch prepared by our own Debbie Coccarelli and an interesting program.

This month's program will be 'The Challenges Facing the Jewish Community Today and What You Can Do to Help' by our neighbor, Rabbi Eric Solomon.

Please RSVP for planning purposes to Carole Mason at 919-210-0727.

## Message from the Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I am pleased to report that giving rebounded nicely in March from a disappointing February.

For the month, our income was \$54,206, or \$1,063 under plan, while expenses were \$47,687, or \$3,406 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, income was \$146,356, or \$13,950 under plan, and expenses were \$159,848, or \$567 over plan. Expenses have exceeded income by \$13,492 so far this year.

As noted above, March income represented a nice recovery from a down February, but was still slightly under plan. We are meaningfully behind plan after three months, but with God's help and your generous giving, we have plenty of time to get back on track.

PastorTim made an interesting observation at our recent Finance Committee meeting after reviewing a graph of our monthly income trends for the last five years. He noticed that we have had a big drop in income each and every May during this period and we do not know why this occurs. Since we are already behind, it would be wonderful if we could find a way to avoid this drop-off this year.

Thank you for all you do to support the ministries at St. Philip!

Blessings,

Jim Beck, Finance Chair

Giving				March 2025			
	Actual	Plan	%				
February 2025	\$ 54,206	\$ 52,269	104%				
Year to Date	\$ 146,356	\$160,306	91%				
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%	
Income							
General Fund	\$ 51,517	\$ 45,000	114%	\$ 137,452	\$ 135,000	102%	
Other Income	\$ 2,689	\$ 7,269	37%	\$ 8,904	\$ 25,306	35%	
Total Income	\$ 54,206	\$ 52,269	104%	\$ 146,356	\$ 160,306	91%	
Expenses	\$ 47,687	\$ 51,094	93%	\$ 159,848	\$ 159,281	100%	
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 6,519	\$ 1,175		\$ (13,492)	\$ 1,025		

The 2024 Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$636,624





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise Choir	2 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	3 10:00 am Youth Group 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir practice 7:00 pm AA
9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 3:30 pm Family Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Y12SR	5 1:30 pm Staff 6:30 pm Property Team	6 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	7 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry	8 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise Choir	9 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	10 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 10:00 am Youth Group 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 7:00 pm Y12SR	12	13 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 6:00 pm Gathering of Grievers 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Preschool Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	14	15 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise Choir	16 10:00 am Al Anon 4:30 pm Al Anon Assembly 7:00 pm AA	9:00 am Al Anon Assembly 10:00 am New Members Class 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Year-end Cook Out 6:30 pm Congregation Council 7:00 pm Y12SR	19 1:30 pm Staff	9:30 am Breakfast Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	10:30 am Bible Study 6:45 pm Bible Study	22 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise Choir	23 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	24 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 7:00 pm Y12SR	26 Office Closed	27 10:00 am Book Club 6:30 pm Pub Ministry 6:30 pm Fellowship Supper 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	28 10:30 am Bible Study 6:45 pm Bible Study	29 NC Synod General Assembly begins  10:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA	30 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	31 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA



10:00 am

One Worship Service & Fellowship Pot Luck Lunch

Rev. Tim Poston Senior Pastor Pastor@st-philip.org

Kai Thurow

Outreach & Youth Ministries Coordinator <u>Kai@st-philip.org</u>

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

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri (In person) 9:00 -4:00 Tues, & Thurs (Virtual) 9:00-4:00

Facebook
St. Philip Lutheran

Church, Raleigh



Twitter @St\_PhilipELCA



Instagram stplcraleigh



## St. Philip Lutheran Church

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

www.St-Philip.org



WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST!

