Weekly Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021

Scriptures:

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm: Canticle 15
Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, [46-55]

Note:

All updated protocols of our worship service, including Holy Communion at the altar, will be observed. We will continue to provide a live podcast of our 10:30 am Sunday Service and a follow-up podcast that will be available each Sunday. The Sunday Podcast bulletin is available as an attachment to this email.

NOTICE: Updated Guidelines

* **Masks are now recommended but optional for all services and inside activities. At this point, all other protocols will continue to be in place until further notice. We continue to encourage vaccinations in our parish and in the community.**

- There will be disposable face masks available for those who wish to wear them and hand sanitizer at each entry/exit location.
- Available seating will continue to be strategically marked to safeguard social distancing in the church.
- Readers will be able to return to their Sunday assignments.
- Service bulletins will continue to be published for congregational use.
- Congregational singing will now resume.
- Offering plates will now be circulated during offertory.
- Use of Holy Oil and personalized blessings will resume.
- Communion at the Altar will resume with the offering of the Host and/or the Host tinctured (dipped) in the Wine.
- There will continue to be no Coffee Hour at this time.

Help For Tornado Victims

On Friday and Saturday, December 10 and 11, a line of severe weather spread across the central United States, spawning over 50 tornadoes. Many lives were lost in these storms, and homes and businesses were severely damaged or destroyed. Episcopal Relief & Development is in contact with the affected dioceses as they assess the needs in their communities and stands ready to assist in the coming days and weeks. Please pray for the people impacted by the deadly tornadoes.

Episcopal Relief & Development

Working Together for Lasting Change

Donations to the US Disaster Fund will support Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners as they respond.

POINSETTIAS

The sign up is on the bulletin board to order a beautiful poinsettia in honor or in memory of loved ones. The plants are $17 each. Your dedication will be published in a special insert in the service leaflets at Christmas time.

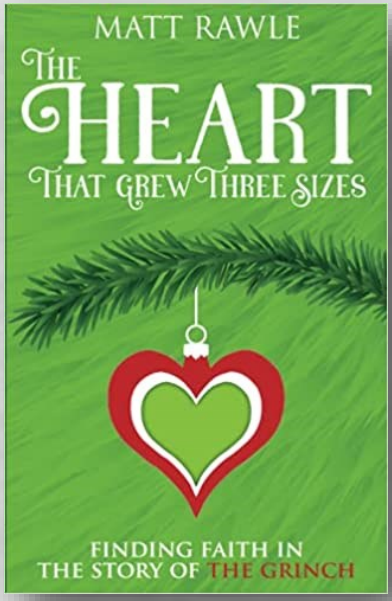
We Need Your Help!

Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021

Your help is needed to hang the <u>inside and outside wreaths</u> <u>after church on the 19th!</u> Some men are especially needed for these "hangings of the greens." Please plan to stay just a short time after the service to complete this task. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Finding Faith in The Story of the Grinch!

Advent—Adult Formation Class



Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows.

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. Come Join us for this DVD guided study during the four Sundays of the Advent Season as we take another look at this timeless, children's Christmas tale through a Christian perspective. We will continue to meet at 9:15 in the Parish Life Center. The cost of the books are $13 and will be available prior to and during the Sundays of Advent. This should be a very interesting study for the season!

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" 1 Peter 4:8-11

"Love Fully - Share Faithfully"

Click on pictures for a message from our 2021 Stewardship Coordinator and a fellow parishioner.

CLICK HERE to Pledge Online!

Stewardship Message from Your Priest

The Great Commandment:
Love Fully, Share Faithfully

I love the theme of this year's Stewardship Program, "Love Fully, Share Faithfully"! It not only has a good ring to it, it rings true about the essence of Christian Discipleship and the foundational principles of our Christian Faith. In fact, this theme points toward the very foundation of Christianity, the Great Commandment. "Love fully, share faithfully" can be viewed as a restatement of the Great two-in-one Commandment, "Love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength AND Love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus, himself says "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets". It is, in effect, a summary of our Christian faith. During our recent Christian Education Program, we studied the relevance of the Ten Commandments today in a study series where we discovered or re-discovered that this Great Commandment pretty much covered the essence and expectations of the Ten Commandments. More and more in my Christian journey, I am coming to understand and believe that this Great Commandment is the greatest measure of my faith and discipleship.

To love fully and to share faithfully is to live into the Great Commandment. How do we love fully? By loving God with all our hearts, mind, soul and strength and by loving our neighbor. How do we love our neighbor? By sharing faithfully. The Church has always been at the heart of loving God in worship and providing the means by which to love our neighbor through faithful sharing and giving. If the Great Commandment is a measure of our faith and discipleship, how are you doing with loving fully and sharing faithfully? During this Stewardship season, it is a good time and opportunity to answer this question for yourselves and for the Church and … for St. Philip.

Fr. Terry ✝

Stewardship Message from Your Senior Warden

Growing Hearts : Love Fully, Share Faithfully

The Adult Sunday School Class is celebrating this Advent by studying a book entitled: The Heart that Grew Three Sizes by Matt Rawle. The subtitle reads, "Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch". The book's focus is on how the Grinch of Dr. Seuss is a life lesson for this Advent Season. Yes, his heart grew three times in love, and he gained the strength to return the Christmas of Whoville. The singing of the Whos in the valley below gave the Grinch profound insight into what he was missing. He learned to love fully and then to share that same love faithfully. Quite a message for us during this time of stewardship self-reflection.

The ongoing pandemic could make our hearts shrink. A local TV celebrity commented recently on how "tiring" this world ordeal has become. He said, "I wish it was over." We can all agree with him! Yet, we endure this storm with love, then share faithfully. During the height of the tornado storms a few nights ago, the TV weather warned of circular echoes of wind in the Davies Plantation area and moving toward Arlington. It was at this time our power was lost. My wife, Gaye, and I hunkered down in an interior room, in our home, to brace against what seemed to be an inevitable slamming of horrific forces. My mind turned to how St. Philip was withstanding. I was able to latch on a security camera to see the storm wind and rain pounding our church. I started praying. (I know my wife was praying as well). Soon the winds and rain began to dissipate. The power to our home was restored in short order. I know now how the Grinch felt when he heard the singing in Whoville.

Storms will come and go. This pandemic will fade away! Advent is about HOPE in love and stewardship is about our sharing faithfully that hope in love. I am reminded that during these winter months, on clear mornings, and traveling along I-40 westward, you can look to your right about a half mile past Canada Road. You will see St. Philip Episcopal Church basking in the morning glistening sun. Be careful because there will be a slowdown of traffic from drivers enjoying this marvelous tapestry. Loving fully and then sharing faithfully is real stewardship. We are showing the light of Christ glowing brightly in this Parish.

Peace be with you,
Dwight L. Wagner

Happy New Year!
(And Merry Christmas!)

As a Christmas card to all of our parishioners, the church is giving each family a 2022 Episcopal Church Liturgical Calendar that designates color coded Feast Days, Holy Days and liturgical seasons. Our hope is that the Liturgical Calendars will help parishioners to be more informed, practicing Episcopalians in the Anglican tradition and that they may be used to guide us in our daily and seasonal adorations, meditations, and worship. Pick your copy up today!

Enjoy!

Altar Flowers Dedications 2022

A new sign-up sheet is on the hall bulletin board for those of you who want to dedicate altar flowers to a loved one or friend. The price is $40.

Prescription Bottle Ministry

(Sponsored by Men's Club)

Thanks for all the Pill Bottles! Keep them Coming!

Free clinics through out the world distribute medications from bulk containers and not in the amber / blue bottles we are used to. More often than not medications are distributed to patient in a folded tissue or envelope with dosage and other information written on the envelope or on an accompanying piece of paper. The patient then puts the tissue in their pocket for the trip home. The medicine may be lost or deteriorate on the way home. Working to end that situation is Matthew25ministries.com working with Morning Sun Cumberland Presbyterian Church and now St. Philip Episcopal Church by recycling the empty pharmaceutical bottles we usually discard.

Acceptable collection items include:

- Prescription pill bottles (Large & Small)
- Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child-resistant)
- *Pill bottles* that are not appropriate for medical supplies are recycled and will generate revenue that supports Matthew 25: Ministries' programs. If you wish to prepare bottles for medical use rather than recycling, please adhere to the following guidelines:

Prep Instructions:

- Bottles included in shipments of medical supplies must have an all plastic lid.
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.
- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
- Rinse and dry thoroughly.
- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.
- Place clean, recapped bottles in large ziplock bags marked "Clean Bottles." These will be blended with medical supplies.
- Any member may give the empty bottles to David Delich of the Men's Club or place in a basket located in the Parish Hall with a " Pill Bottle Ministry" sign.

We hope we can collect enough bottles to make monthly shipments to Matthew25 Ministries.
St. Philip Men's Club

2021 Fall Project

The Manna House is a place of hospitality for the homeless. The Manna House is appropriately named as it freely offers grace and comfort to those in need. Besides offering personal hygiene items like clean underwear, socks, and hot showers, the Manna House provides a safe and friendly "living room" for the community to gather over a cup of hot coffee.

This Fall, we will collect men's underwear (boxers), coats, scarves, hats and gloves to donate to the Manna House. The collection box will be in the Parish Hall. Please be a part of this needed hospitality effort to prepare for the Winter Season. Monetary contributions are welcome. You can make checks out to St. Philip with "Manna House" in the memo. Robert and Anita Poore will be the coordinators of this project. If there are any further questions, please contact Robert Poore at 219-8886.

There is special need for full size blankets, comforters & sleeping bags as well as more warm outerwear. The Manna House guests also continue to need small toiletries.

Thank you for your continued support,
Robert & Anita Poore

Sunday podcast Update

We are pleased to announce we now have a more streamlined process to engage in our online Sunday morning service. Not only has it made the job behind the scenes much easier, the viewer gets a few perks, too! You no longer need to search for the Sunday email with the new link. Now there is one link good for EVERY Sunday. Save this link https://www.stphilipecmemphis.org/live-streaming or click on **"Worship"**, then **"Worship – Live Streaming"** from the church main page. We are currently keeping about four live streaming service videos at a time. Click the three lines below the video to pick which

Sunday service you want to view. For more history on the recorded services click on the link: https://www.stphilipecmemphis.org/podcasts-of-recent-sermons. This can also be accessed by clicking "**Worship"** then "**Recent Sermons Archive"** from the main church page. Not only can you save these links in your favs or bookmarks, but you can rewind and fast forward during the service. Better yet, it will be there in full no matter what time you link up! So, you don't have to be "present" exactly at 10:30 to get the full service. Actually, you may use these links to enjoy the service any time.

NEW

Attention Podcast Viewers!

After much time, effort and strategically going through a process of elimination, our Podcast Team has determined that the primary issue of the Live Podcast was due to an error or "glitch" in our commercial website provider platform. We believe that the live podcast at the 10:30 Service is now operational and should be functioning properly. We thank our Podcast Team for their hard work and persistence. Thank you for your patience during this frustrating time of broadcast problems and we hope you can successfully tune in to our weekly Live Podcast service as well as the re-broadcast published after the Live Podcast. ENJOY!

Communication *Please!*

More than ever, it is important for our Parishioners to faithfully read all emails from St. Philip in a timely manner in order to receive the latest announcements, information and updates during this time. It also is a means by which we can stay and feel connected to our parish and Diocesan family during these turbulent times and period of isolation. You can find Bishop Phoebe's latest message at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe7_imu1HDcxaRW18g4ahuA/featured

To Receive the *Diocesan E-Communicator*

If you would like to receive the weekly Diocesan newsletter, *The Communicator* and Diocesan updates, you can subscribe by going to: http://bit.ly/3bzJwIL

Jonathan Bennett's Weekly Blog

For those of you who may not know, Jonathan Bennett has a weekly blog that is interesting and inspirational. We give thanks for the Bennett Family that continues to bless us with their gifts of Christian education, formation, and inspiration. You can follow Jonathan's weekly blog on:

publishedwiththanksgiving.com

Wednesday Healing Service

We will continue our weekly Wednesday Healing Service with Holy Communion at 12:10 pm. All previous and current protocols of a worship service, including Holy Eucharist, will be observed. We welcome anyone who would like to attend.

MID-SOUTH FOOD BANK
FEEDING THE NEED

HELP FEED THE NEED

Food Drive to Support Mid-South Food Bank

30% of children in the Mid-South don't know when they'll eat next because of Covid-19

1 in 4
Mid-southerners are living food insecure.

300+ food pantries, soup kitchens & shelters rely on the Food Bank.

24.5% of Mid-Southerners are living with hunger. Over 133,000 are Seniors.

136,382 children are food insecure and hungry on a regular basis.

EVERY $1.00 DONATED PROVIDES 3 MEALS!

Most Needed Items: (NO GLASS CONTAINERS)

Canned meats	Canned Fruit (especially no-sugar)	Dried Beans
Soup	Canned Veggies (especially no-salt)	Rice
Chili	Canned 100% Fruit Juice	Macaroni & Cheese
Peanut Butter		ANY Non-Perishable

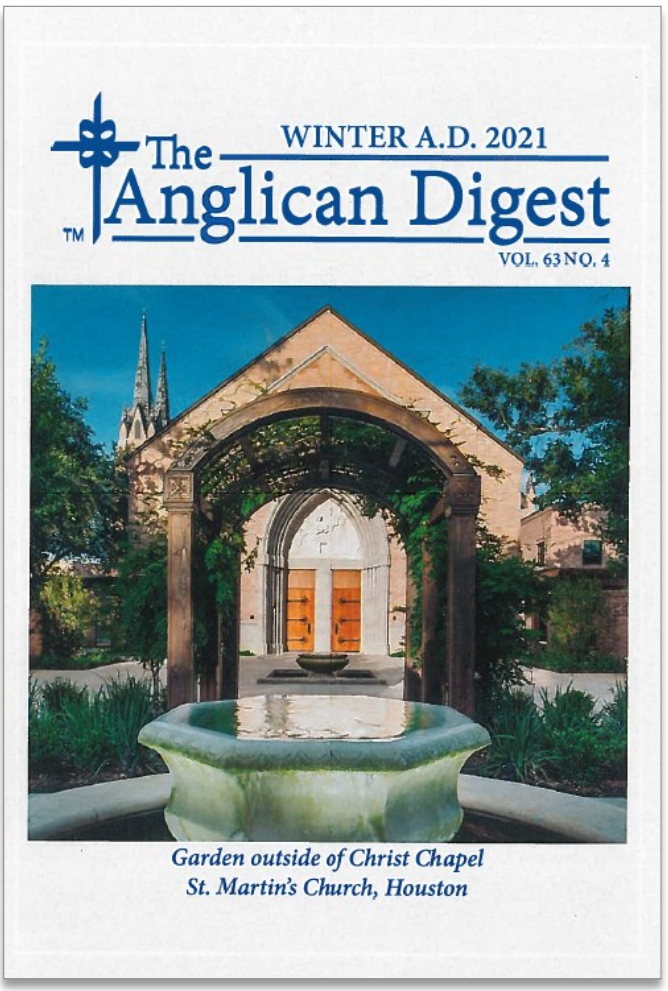
Non-Food Items:

Paper towels, plates, napkins	Toilet paper	Laundry & Dish Detergent
	Personal care items	Other cleaning products

Food donations can be made at St. Philip in the Blue Container in the Parish Hall.
Checks can be made out to St. Philip with "Food Bank" in the memo line.

Be sure to pick up ***Our Daily Bread*** for December, January and February. They are in the hall and the narthex for your convenience.
If you are unable to pick up a copy of *Our Daily Bread* from the church, you may order your **free copy** online at:
www.odb.org/signup
(Control + Click opens link).

Pick Up Your New Winter Issue!



I have personally read The Anglican Digest since my first gift subscription given to all senior seminarians upon graduation at The School of Theology at Sewanee. Year after year, I have greatly benefited from the many inspirational writings and authors. Over the years, the Digest has transitioned from a more scholarly, academic reader to a more congregational reader of Christian education and inspiration. (It even has recipes and cartoons making it a very friendly read!) It seems to bend toward the traditional but it is refreshingly non-political. Thanks to the publisher, we have worked out a discounted subscription for 50 copies for our Parish at St. Philip. On a first come, first serve basis, please pick up a complimentary copy for your own devotions. The Anglican Digest is published quarterly by seasons. It has become a part of my once-a-week, weekend devotions.
Pick up a copy and tell me what you think!

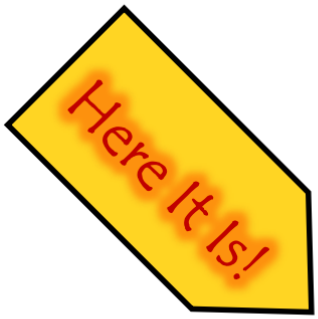
Now You Can Pledge Online!

We now have the Pledge Card in a "Smart Form" on our Website: https://www.stphilipecmemphis.org/pledge-cards-for-budget .

Members and non-members can fill out the form online and submit to our treasurer, Jessica Heckle. This was tested and it works! This will assist our congregation especially those who might be absent, during our pledge campaign.

Credit Card Giving

We are excited to now offer online payments for offerings through *Square*. Click on these secure links* for pledges or discretionary fund offerings. It will open up a secure checkout page on *Square*. Enter the amount of your offering, your email address, full name and credit card information. A confirmation email receipt will be sent to you confirming your payment. We hope this might be useful, particularly during this time. Please note that there will be a 3.5% charge to St. Philip for the use of this service.



**These links will only work with Google Chrome and Firefox browsers for computers and Android and Apple phones and tablets. They will not work with Microsoft Internet Explorer or Edge.*

PLEDGES:
https://checkout.square.site/pay/8748c1661da34d02b334cbe105fd9a5b

DISCRETIONARY FUND:
https://checkout.square.site/pay/00af8470743449b99cd72cd360a01d5d

FRESH FOR EVERYONE™
Kroger

Dear St. Philip Episcopal Chruch-Mphs (EA218),

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use, The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,

Community Rewards Staff

01-Aug-2021 to 31-Oct-2021

43

Households

$142.70

Total Donations

Attention Parishioners and Friends!

The church earns 5% of the purchases when your Kroger Card or account is paired with this special donation account. How great is that? We have previously earned hundreds of dollars donated to the church for this simple effort. Please take a minute to re-enroll or enroll for the first time so that St. Philip can continue to benefit from this generous free offer.

The instructions to re-enroll or set up a new account are as follows:

- Go to Kroger.com website.
- Login to your Kroger account; if you do not have a Kroger account, you will need to set one up.

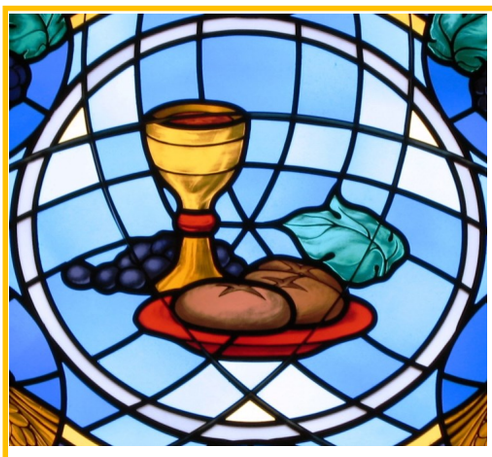
- Once logged in, go to My Account by going to the top right corner where there is a drop-down menu by your login name — you may have to login in again with the same user name and password for your account.
- On the left side of the dashboard page, there is a link for Community Rewards.
- If you do not have a St. Philip Episcopal Chruch-Mphs (YES, church is spelled wrong!) set up, you can search for it by entering **EA218**, our organization number, and when it comes up, select Enroll. You should then see that enrollment status.

Thank you for your support!

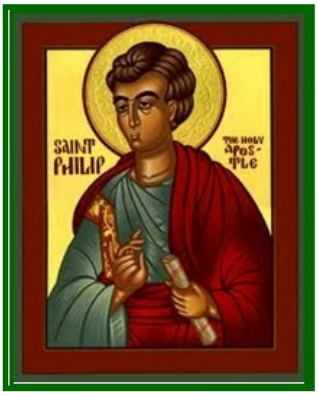
Are you self-quarantined and needing help with something?

If so, St. Philip has several volunteers who have offered to help getting groceries, medications or transportation for you. Please let us know:
email *office@stphilipmemphis.org*, or call the office at (901)388-9830 or Father Terry at 901-896-5106. We'll do our best to get help for you!

ALTAR GUILD



Would you like to help set the Lord's Table? The Altar Guild invites women and men to join us in this vital church ministry. Reasons to serve are: easy to learn to set up and clean up; once a month commitment; part of an assigned team each month so you don't have to be on your own; other special set ups/clean ups (Holy Week, etc) are on a volunteer basis. The satisfaction that comes from honoring Christ in this special way and from playing a part in helping to provide hospitality to other parishioners and visitors is a blessing! We need and would appreciate volunteers for both service times. Please prayerfully consider helping us because help is needed! (Some of our members have devoted many years to this ministry.) If you have questions or better yet, to volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Domico (299-5913; domicofam@aol.com).



Remember . . . As Christians we are all Evangelists!

Invite someone to St. Philip this year so they may hear the Good News and enjoy our Christian fellowship.

Fr. Terry✝

Service Schedule Changes & Updates:

If you are a volunteer who serves on Sunday mornings, please notify Liz Stephens (860-501-5536 OR *the4stephens@gmail.com*) if there are last minute changes to our Schedule of Servers published monthly in the EVANGEL. If your change is received prior to Wednesday mornings, the changes can be updated in the weekly email and bulletins.

Also, it would be so helpful if all Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes would check in with the Verger once you arrive at church letting them know you are present to serve.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Remember the St. Philip's Discretionary Fund

The 1st Sunday of the month is St. Philip's Discretionary Fund Sunday. The loose offering and other gifts so designated are given to St. Philip's Discretionary Fund for the purpose of helping parish members and others in the community in times of serious need. If you wish to contribute by check, please make it out to St. Philip and designate it "St. Philip's Discretionary Fund." Of course, you may contribute to this fund at any time. Your funds are especially needed during this time of crisis and great need. Your checks may be mailed to the church office at this time, or you can pay online through *SQUARE*.

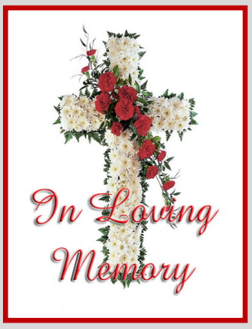
PLEASE Update our Prayer List!

PLEASE be sure to complete a prayer request form from the box on the hall bulletin board. **After 30 days, please update** the office on the status of your person and let's consider moving them to the DOK prayer list if they are still in need of our prayers. Thank you for your cooperation.

Memorials December 2021

In Memory of Pat Rodman

Given by: Debra R. Herr



St. Philip's Prayer List

Brooks/Baker Family
Kathie Cavette
Clemmensen Family
Sandra Forbes
Fr. Colenzo Hubbard
Brandon Malone
Robert Poore
Sherry & Pat Rowlett
Jason Webb
Phyllis Williams

Just a Reminder!

December 19, 2021

8:00 AM		10:30 AM	
Verger	Judyth Wilson	**Verger**	David Delich
LEM	Judyth Wilson	**LEM**	Shannon Mullins
Lay Reader	Judyth Wilson	**Lay Reader**	Shannon Mullins
Usher	Greg Temple	**Usher**	Gary Mullins

Offering Counter	Mary Ely
Coffee Hour	NONE
Altar Guild	TBD
Flower Guild	Paula DeStefanis

CONTACT US

Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-4pm, ; Friday, 10am -3pm
Office Phone: 901.388.9830 Email: office@stphilipmemphis.org
Website: www.stphilipmemphis.org