

PHPC DIGEST

A publication of the Congregational Care Department

Nov/Dec
2019

Dear friends...

Whether you have attended worship in person or online, you know that this fall we have taken up the question, "Why Church?" and we have been looking at fundamental aspects of this institution that we treasure and hold in common.

In recent weeks, we've provided timely resources through our Senior Sessions; we've gathered with those needing support amidst grief at monthly Faith & Grief luncheons and weekly Grief Support Groups;

we've shared home communion with members and friends who are not able to be with us in person; and we gathered as retired and current church elders for our bi-annual College of Elders event where we recognized and celebrated our deep bench of leadership, past and present.

If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving



communion at home, we will offer it once again in December. Please contact the church office to let us know. Also our annual Blue Christmas service will be held on December 2. All are invited to this special service designed for anyone needing encouragement during the holiday season.

Peace be with you,
Mark

A Note From the Pastor



On October 3 the College of Elders (all persons who have been ordained as an Elder) gathered for an evening of celebration! The biannual gathering of our College of Elders has become one of the highlights of my time at PHPC. The Spirit of God hovers when we gather together and reconnect. October 3 was no different, as nearly 180 people gathered to

reconnect, receive an update on the church, and hear from the President of Paul Quinn College, Dr. Michael Sorrell. Dr. Sorrell spoke about leadership not being a one time event, rather the culmination of a life. His words resonated deeply with me as I was surrounded by so many in our community who have shared in ministry and leadership at PHPC. Simply put, PHPC would not be here today had it not been for their leadership, sacrifice and ministry. The same is true for you. Many of you have invested a life time of

resources, commitment, and time. Because of that commitment PHPC continues to thrive and help people from all corners of Dallas grow as disciples of Jesus Christ! Thank you! I probably do not say that enough, but I hope you know how deeply grateful I am for you. It is truly a gift to be your pastor and to walk this journey of faith with you.

With great hope,

Matthew Ruffe

Matthew



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Book Study - *Anxious to Talk About It - Helping White Christians Talk About Racism*

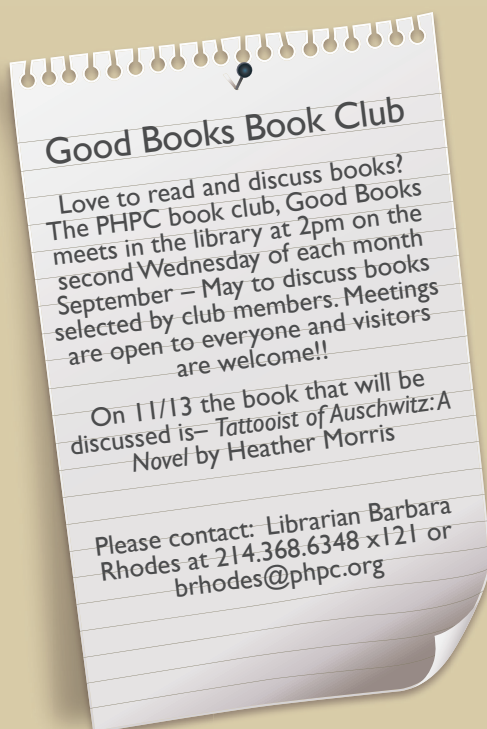
by Rev. Dr. Carolyn Helsel
Tuesdays, October 29 - December 3 6:30 p.m. PHPC Parlor
Led by Rev. Mark Brainerd



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Red Cross Blood Drive

7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Gymnasium next to Jubilee Courtyard All are invited to participate. The target donors are aged 17 - 45.



Weekly at PHPC

Monday

Library Open (9am - 4pm)
Bridge (1 - 4pm)
Yoga (5:30 - 6:30pm)

Tuesday

Men's Breakfast
(6:45 - 8:30am)

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible Study (7-8am)
Art Class (9am - 12pm)
Library Open (9am - 4pm)
Women's Fellowship
(11:30am - 1:30pm)

Thursday

Disciple Bible Study (9:30-11:30am)
Tai Chi (12:30 - 1:30pm)
Theology on Thursdays (1:30-2:30pm)

Faith and Grief Luncheon

If you have experienced the death of a loved one and find yourself needing a safe place to process your grief, join us for the monthly luncheon at 12 noon, **November 21**, and **December 19**, at PHPC. It is a time and space for sharing your story and finding comfort among others who understand. Please register at www.faithandgrief.org or call 469.251.9612.

For information on our monthly Grief Support Luncheons, please contact Susan McDaniel at smcdaniel1952@yahoo.com or call 214.207.3980.

Christmas Decorating Elves Needed

Saturday, December 7, 9am - 1pm



The church flower committee is looking for volunteer elves to help with the Christmas decorating on Saturday, December 7, 9am – 1pm. This fun event will include placing wreaths, poinsettias, Christmas trees, greenery and garlands. If you would enjoy being a part of adorning the church for the holiday season, we would love for you to join us.

Please contact: Sandra Zelley at snzelley@icloud.com or 678.521.1181.

Births

Madeline Doyne Easley, granddaughter to Stanley Herrin and Elizabeth Small, September 15

Margo Catherine to Sarah and Aaron Beaudrie, September 22

Vivienne Jenny Crain to Sarah "Babo" and BW Crain, October 14

Marriages

Mary Ann Hyde & George Richard Till, August 21

Kaitlyn Schutza & William Sandifer, October 19

Deaths of Members

Ken Smalley – August 11

Mike Duren – August 16

Gene Phillips – August 16

Teel Gray – August 20

Wayne Fagan – August 25

Jim Thomas – September 9

Mike Dennis – September 27

Mary Blanche Cashmore – October 14

Hank Bacak, October 19



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Blue Christmas Service

A Wholeness and Healing service begins at 7pm and is led by Rev. Mark Brainerd. It is a time for quiet reflection, meaningful words and music to seek comfort, hope and wholeness rooted in the good news of "God With Us: Emmanuel"

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Carolfest

Preston Hollow's children, youth, adult and hand bell choirs share festive music of the Christmas season. The congregation will be invited to join in carol singing throughout the program. There is no admission charge.

Christmas Music Sunday

Sunday, December 22 at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

The Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary ringers lead us in a morning of Christmas music. The services feature congregational carols and choral anthems, all accompanied by a full orchestra! The service includes music by John Rutter; Mack Wilberg, Will Todd and more.

Join us for this exciting Sunday of worship.



Book Review and Holiday Lunch

Wednesday, December 4

PHPC member and professional book reviewer, Sharron Lucky will review *My Exaggerated Life* – Pat Conroy, as told to Katherine Clark.

Patrick "Pat" Conroy was an American author who wrote several acclaimed novels and memoirs; his books *The Water is Wide*, *The Lords of Discipline*, *The Prince of Tides* and *The Great Santini*, were made into films, the latter two were nominated for Oscars.

My Exaggerated Life is the product of a special collaboration between this great American author and oral biographer Katherine Clark, who recorded 200 hours of conversations with Conroy before he passed away in 2016. In the

spring and summer of 2014. They spoke an hour or more every day. No subject was off limits, including aspects of his tumultuous life – never before revealed.

The book tells the story behind the stories of this gifted author whose books have sold 20 million copies. Sharron Lucky, storyteller and longtime PHPC member wanted to tell this story, since she became a book reviewer.

A festive, holiday lunch will follow for fellowship and holiday entertainment. Tickets are \$15. Reservations should be made by December 1.

Please go online to phpc.org and access the event through the "Events" page. or contact Tammy Hale thale@phpc.org to make your reservation.

November Lunch and Learns

November is a busy month in Adult Education at PHPC. We have three Lunch and Learns scheduled with speakers on subjects that are extremely relevant. Lunch is \$10.

Sunday, November 10



Christian Teaching and Stories of Migration from the Border
with Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuellar, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theology Seminary.



Sundays November 17 & 24
Climate Change and Faith

with Dr. Robert Haley MD, Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the Division of Epidemiology in the Internal Medicine Department at UT Southwestern Medical Center and holder of the U.S. Armed Forces Veterans Distinguished Chair for Medical Research Honoring America's Gulf War Veterans.

PHPC Care Team

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Speaker Series

Cultivating Thriving Community in Dallas: Michelle Kinder & Larry James



November 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Michelle is the former Executive Director of the Momentous institute and a licensed professional counselor and an expert in social emotional health. She speaks on social-emotional health, leadership, and practices that make for thriving communities.

Larry is the President and CEO of CitySquare. He is known in the Dallas faith, business and media communities and currently serves the church in a dual appointment to CitySquare and Highland Park United Methodist Church. Larry has devoted the last 24 years to transforming a struggling, mostly volunteer food pantry into a faith-based mini-powerhouse committed to changing the way we treat our economically disadvantaged and homeless.

Presbyterian Women at PHPC



The highlight of our November Monday circle meeting on November 11, is our Pastor and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Chef

Gary will provide turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy. Our circle members will supply their fav recipes of vegetables, salads and desserts. Many members of the Tuesday morning and Monday evening circles will join the celebration. Can you come too? 9:30am in Jubilee Hall for Bible study before lunch.

We continue working our way through our study of the Ten Commandments, or Ten Words as it is in Hebrew. In November, we will look at the "hinge" Word between our personal intimacy with God and our community responsibility by examining how to keep Sabbath. The December 9 and 10 lesson is based on the Fifth Word to honor the "life-givers." This is the only Word with a promise. Our meetings are the second Monday (9:30am or 5:30pm) and Tuesday (10am) of each month.

Please join us for as much of our Bible study, fellowship and outreach to our mission partners as your schedule allows.

For more information, contact Billi Duray at mpduray@sbcglobal.net or 214.341.8026.

Volunteers

We have occasional, short-term volunteer projects and we need YOU!!

Interested volunteers – please contact Tammy Hale at 214.368.6348 x113 or thale@phpc.org