

# St. Philip's Weekly Newsletter September 17

Hello there, St. Philippians! (Jack told me St. Paul's letter to the Philippians might have been intended for us. I say, "Why not?") It's time for another newsletter so I'll just get it underway...

## **Events and Announcements**

- Deacon Dan's "Spiritual Awareness" and "Retreat in the World" offerings are (quite understandably) on hold for the time being. Dan is very sad about this. While we love his spiritual depth and ministry among us, our biggest concern is his health. So we WANT him to take as much time as he needs. More on his situation below.
- Green Thumbs have their next meeting Saturday, September 18th at 9:15 a.m.
- Adult Bible Study is slated for Monday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.
- We're so happy to say that Catechesis of the Good Shepherd resumes on Sunday, September 26th.
- Plan to be in church on Sunday, the 26th, too! Because our guest preacher will be the Rev. Courtney Reid from the Diocesan office. Courtney will join us for coffee hour after the service and introduce us to the "Fierce Conversations" concept.
- Copies of both Fierce Conversations by Susan Scott and Waking Up White by Debby Irving are available in my office. You are welcome to keep both books or read them and pass them on. These books were purchased by a parishioner for you!
- Oktoberfest is drawing closer! Please join us on Saturday, October 2nd for a ton of family fun. Invite friends and anyone you think might be interested in getting to know St. Philip's a little better. This is a fundraiser, so there will be a silent auction, a beer tasting, a root-beer tasting and lots more. The highlight of the day? Being together and enjoying Mike Livingston's famous pulled pork. Oh boy!

- The Lunch Bunch Ladies are back in business! Their next get together is Friday, October 8th at 11:30. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy the fun.
- The “Eat, Pray, Read” Book Club plans to read Hard Times by Charles Dickens for their next meeting and discussion. It’s scheduled for Monday evening, October 11th, at 7:00 p.m.
- **NEW ANNOUNCEMENT**: I am excited to report that our guest preacher on Tuesday, October 26th, will be Dr. Ben Weber, Assistant Professor of English from Wheaton College. No, we will not be diagramming sentences or conjugating verbs! Ben is going to introduce us to the world of Alfred the Great, King of Wessex, whose feast it is. King Alfred’s reign may have come toward the end of the “Dark Ages”, but he was a passionate light in the world for both general education & literacy and for the Gospel of Christ. Dr. Weber is currently teaching Old English Lit and so his knowledge of Alfred is extensive. A few of his students may join him, so please come and make them feel welcome.

### **Notes of Prayer and Praise**

- While we continue to pray for Paula Clark, our Bishop-Elect, we must now commit ourselves to praying for her husband, Andrew McLean. He has recently been diagnosed with multiple myeloma, and Paula and her family are now making difficult decisions about palliative care. Assisting Bishop Chilton Knudsen says cards may be sent to Rev. Paula Clark and Andrew McLean in care of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, 65 East Huron, Chicago, Illinois 60611.
- Deacon Dan’s heart has NO infection in it. At first, Dan’s heart did not have a regular rhythm but has thankfully returned to normal. We praise the Lord for this good news. I’m also happy to report the infection in Dan’s leg is clearing up nicely. Another answer to prayer! We must still keep praying, however. Doctors were also concerned that the infection in Dan’s hand was not going away, but in fact, spreading. He has had surgery and is receiving extensive treatment to remove a stubborn

infection. Pray that the infection yields to treatment. Keep the prayers coming. Dan asked me to thank everyone for their prayers and many cards.

- Please pray for our brother, Marv Hill, who had knee-replacement surgery Tuesday. We want you back on the golf course as soon as possible, Marvin!
- Kim McDonald has moved! She is now in Room 140 at Health Bridge in Arlington Heights. She is out of quarantine and may have visitors! Please stop by and say hello. Cards may be sent to:

Kim McDonald  
% Heath Bridge CC & Rehab  
Room 140  
Arlington Heights, Il. 60004

- Give thanks that Michelle Webb and her friend, Mike, were able to join us for worship and the wonderful picnic Sunday. Michelle is healing nicely but still experiencing some numbness. Keep on praying!
- Let's give praise to God for the continuing recovery of Diane Knowles. Diane is feeling a little better every day and was even able to join us for worship on Tuesday. And why not? She and Rich are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary!
- Give thanks for Linda Smith, the Cappello's, Mona Diaz, Pam Patyk and anyone else who helped make our wonderful parish picnic a success. People helped decorate, set up, prepare dishes, clean up, and on & on! Good heavens - just give thanks for each one of you because you all contributed something terrific: your presence!

- Grace Horner requests your prayers for her nephew's wife, Candace Horner. Candace broke her leg in two places Friday so please remember her. Also, Grace's friend, Gail Santrach, was in an accident and is struggling with a painful recovery. Please pray for her, as well.
- And of course, we pray for all those with ongoing physical or other needs. These include Bill Peterson; Jill Hill; Ken and Janie Jenssen; Linda Purcell; Kim McDonald; Andreas Kistner; Roberta Butler; Kelly Scolnick; Judy Harn; Pam Durkin; Lillian Conway; Christina Guzman; Levi Tsu and his family; Molly and her parents - David and Laura; Joe and Toni Saladino; Marge; Peggy and Don.

In the wider church, please pray for...

- The Philippine Independent Church, a denomination the Episcopal Church has just marked 60 years of full communion with.
- St. Columba of Iona Episcopal Church and Priest-in-Charge, Roberto Pamatmat.
- Good News in the Neighborhood Church on East Wood Street. Our neighbors! Pray God's blessing on their ministry and on Pastor Luke Macdonald as he shepherds the flock!

## **This Week's Quiz...**

...is about our neighbor to the south. No, not Walgreens! Mexico! Mexican Independence Day is September 16th. So Happy Birthday, Mexico! Let's get to know you a little better...

1. If the 16th of September is Mexican Independence Day, then why do people celebrate "Cinco de Mayo"? (Mayonnaise is the national condiment of Mexico; The 5th of May is when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared; Mexican forces crushed French troops at the Battle of Puebla in 1862; May 5th is the birthday of singer Vicente Fernandez; May 5th is when Mexico's Constitution was ratified)
2. Mexico City is one of the largest in the world and certainly, the largest in Mexico. What is Mexico's second-largest city? (Tijuana; Monterrey; Acapulco; Juarez; Guadalajara)
3. In addition to contributing to the US labor force in World War Two, Mexico made another tremendous contribution to the fight for freedom. What was it? (Allied propaganda leaflets were printed on Mexican presses; A Mexican infantry division fought in North Africa; A Mexican intelligence agent foiled a plot to assassinate Winston Churchill; the 201st Fighter Squadron of the Mexican Air Force fought the Japanese in the Philippines; The landing craft used on D-Day were invented by a Mexican national living in the US)
4. Mistaking him for one of their gods come back to life, the Aztec people of Mexico offered what drink to Hernan Cortez? (Water; Coffee; Tequila; Beer; Hot Chocolate)
5. What bird is on Mexico's flag? (Hawk; Osprey; Eagle; Vulture; Road Runner)

Answers are at the end of the newsletter! How'd you do?

### **Today in Christian History...**

- On September 12th, 1830: Death of John Henry Hobart, Episcopal bishop of the New York diocese. Energetic in extending the church, he established branches in almost every major city of New York state, sent missionaries to the Oneida Indians, founded General Theological Seminary, and revived another college that will later be renamed Hobart College in his honor.
- On September 13th, 1984: Adano Andrew Tuye begins studies at the All Nations Christian College in England. He will be the first person from Kenya's nomadic tribes to become a bishop in the Anglican Church and will translate the entire Bible into the Borana/Oromo language.
- On September 14th: 407: Death of John Chrysostom (his name means "golden mouth"), considered the greatest preacher of his era. He was being forced to march into remote exile despite severe illness.
- On September 15th, 1877: The Pacific Garden Mission opens its world-famous rescue work in Chicago.
- On September 16th, 1498: Death of Tomás de Torquemada, head of the Spanish Inquisition. He had burned at least two thousand victims (some say ten thousand) and tortured thousands more.
- On September 17th, 1717: The first synod of the Presbyterian Church in America meets in Philadelphia.
- On September 18th, 1975: For the first time in Chile's history, its annual Te Deum prayer service that commemorates national independence, is led not by the Roman Catholic Church but by the Methodist Pentecostal Church.

*Thanks to the Christian History Institute*

## News Briefs...

(RICHMOND, VA.) -- Retired Newark Bishop John Shelby Spong, a bestselling author and cleric known for his heretical theology and his visionary support of LGBTQ+ clergy in The Episcopal Church, has died. He was 90. "It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong. He died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday morning," St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia, where Spong had once been pastor, announced on Sept. 12 [in an email to the congregation](#). Spong made headlines as the bishop of the Diocese of Newark, where he served for more than two decades and in 1989 [ordained](#) the first openly gay male priest in the Episcopal Church. He would later go on to ordain about three dozen LGBTQ+ clergy in the diocese by the time he retired, Religion News Service [reported](#) in 2013. He also championed women clergy, making sure that any church in his diocese that was searching for a new priest interviewed at least one woman candidate, said Bishop Bonnie Perry of the Diocese of Michigan. That put him lightyears ahead of leaders in the Episcopal Church, said Perry, who was ordained as a priest by Spong in 1990. While some of his views about the roles of women and LGBTQ+ people in the church have become mainstream in many Protestant denominations, his theology has not. Spong has famously denied the Virgin Birth and the bodily resurrection of Christ. Author Diana Butler Bass, reacting to the news, said whatever people feel about Spong's theology, they must give him credit for helping open church doors to all people...not just some.

*Religion News Service and Episcopal News Service*

(CANTERBURY) -- For the first time, the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion have jointly warned of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation. Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and Archbishop Justin Welby urge everyone to play their part in "choosing life" for the future of the planet. In a joint statement, the Christian leaders have called on people to pray, in this Christian season of creation, for world leaders ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) this November. The statement reads: "We call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us." The joint declaration issues a clear warning—"Today, we are paying the price...Tomorrow could be worse"—and concludes that, "This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it." The three Christian leaders spoke against injustice and inequality, saying, "We stand before a harsh justice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the earth's resources than the planet can endure. But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them." The prelates' statement calls on people to do the following:

- Pray for world leaders ahead of COP26.
- For individuals: To make meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the planet, working together and taking responsibility for how we use our resources.
- For those with far-reaching responsibilities: To choose people-centered profits and lead the transition to just and sustainable economies.

*Episcopal News Service*

(LAKE TAHOE, CA.) -- A small team of Episcopal clergy in the Diocese of Northern California spent the past several weeks ministering to some of the people and animals who were forced to flee their homes because of [the Caldor Fire near Lake Tahoe](#). The Episcopalians brought coffee and food, marshaled donations of bikes for children and prayed with evacuees upon request. They also have helped distribute money and gift cards that were furnished by a disaster relief effort led by the diocese, which announced this week that it had raised more than \$11,000 in donations. The Caldor Fire so far has [consumed more than 200,000 acres](#) and destroyed hundreds of structures. This week, emergency officials announced that fire crews had the fire about 50% contained, somewhat easing its threat to communities and homes. The Episcopal outreach continues as some parishioners from the [Episcopal Church of Our Saviour](#) in Placerville, who call themselves Team Caldor, are working with diocesan officials on a long-term assistance plan for the most financially vulnerable victims of the fire's devastation.

*Episcopal News Service*

(KNOXVILLE, TN.) -- An Episcopal youth group in Tennessee has made the most of pandemic-related limits on indoor gatherings and travel by helping to repair homes in their city. The youth group of the [Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan](#) in Knoxville has partnered with [Operation Backyard](#), a local nonprofit that repairs the homes of residents in need and takes its name from the mission of helping the poor "in your own backyard." It's a partnership that benefits everyone involved on multiple levels, youth minister Sinead Doherty said. Clients who can't afford necessary repairs get to keep their homes, and the parish teenagers learn valuable building skills and lessons about the realities of economic injustice. Beyond that, the program fosters personal connections and a sense of purpose, Doherty told Episcopal News Service. Operation Backyard is a project of the [Knoxville Leadership Foundation](#), a nondenominational Christian nonprofit that connects volunteers with urban improvement projects, mostly dealing with housing for low-income people. Operation Backyard leaders select projects suitable for inexperienced volunteers – such as building wheelchair ramps, patching roofs or painting – and guide the volunteers through the work.

*Episcopal News Service*

(UNDATED) -- Celebrating six decades of commitment as full communion partners, The Episcopal Church and the Iglesia Filipina Independiente—also known as the Philippine Independent Church—will host a webinar Sept. 15 featuring multiple church leaders. The celebration will continue in October with a service of thanksgiving and evening prayer. “Revisiting Our Common Mission, Celebrating Our Friendship and Telling Our Stories” will open with remarks from Obispo Maximo Rhee M. Timbang of the Philippine Independent Church and recorded greetings from Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. The webinar will be on Zoom from 5 to 7 p.m. Pacific time. “The courage of the Philippine Independent Church in the midst of national conflict and its commitment to care for the poor is a continuing witness to our gospel call,” said the Rev. Margaret Rose, The Episcopal Church deputy for ecumenical and interreligious relations, who will also participate in the webinar. “We are grateful for our ecumenical partnership and look forward to our common work of mission and ministry in the years to come.” The Philippine Independent Church was born out of revolution in 1902 following the Filipino-American war. Describing itself as “a community of faith steeped in the nationalist history and the workers’ struggle in the Philippines,” the church’s mission statement “affirms its commitment to its historical mission and ministry in empowering the poor, deprived and oppressed through its liberative education, organizing, and mobilizing of the Filipino people in pursuing life in its fullness.” In 1948, The Episcopal Church in the United States consecrated three bishops of the Philippine Independent Church. In 1961, following a series of meetings and mission-dialogues, the churches agreed to establish a concordat of full communion, formalizing their partnership and commitment.

*Episcopal News Service*

(SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA) -- The founder of one of the world's largest megachurches has died, according to news reports from Korea. The English-language Korean Herald [reported](#) that the Rev. Cho Yong-gi died at a Seoul hospital on Tuesday morning (Sept. 14). Cho, known in the United States as David Yonggi Cho, was the founder of the Yoido Full Gospel Church, a Pentecostal megachurch whose members number in the hundreds of thousands. The church's [website](#) also carried an announcement of his death. "He conveyed the gospel of hope to the Korean people who fell into despair after the Korean War," the church said in a statement. "He was instrumental in growing the Korean church, particularly developing Yoido Full Gospel Church as the world's largest church." Cho founded the Pentecostal church in 1958, initially holding services under a tent before moving to a 10,000-seat sanctuary in 1993, [according to](#) Christianity Today magazine. The church would eventually claim the title of the world's largest church according to Guinness World Records, with [close to](#) 800,000 members. As many as 200,000 people attended weekly services, drawn by Cho's hopeful preaching and optimistic messages about a better life. Though membership has since declined to 600,000, it's still the largest Protestant church in South Korea, with 400 pastors and evangelists in the country and 500 missionaries abroad, reported The Associated Press. Protestantism is the biggest religion in South Korea, followed by Buddhism and Catholicism, according to 2015 government census data. Cho retired as pastor of the Yodoi church in 2007. In 2014, he was [convicted](#) for embezzling millions from the church and received a suspended sentence. His son Cho Hee-Jun used church funds to buy stocks at inflated prices and then created false documents to evade taxes, [according to](#) Korean news reports. Still, Cho remained a beloved figure and was named pastor emeritus by the church, which is affiliated with the Assemblies of God. A number of Cho's sermons [are posted](#) on the church's website.

*Religion News Service and Christianity Today*

(DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA) -- Casey Stanton wanted to offer encouragement, love and healing to the inmates at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women, where she served as a chaplain intern a few years ago.

But as a Catholic woman she could not represent her church there in any official capacity. The state of North Carolina requires chaplains in its state prison system to be ordained. And the Catholic Church does not ordain women — neither as priests, nor as deacons. Stanton, who is 35 and holds a master of divinity from Duke Divinity School, is not seeking to become a priest, which canon law forbids. She would, however, jump at the chance to be ordained a deacon — a position that would allow her and other women to serve as Catholic chaplains in prisons, hospitals and other settings. According to Religion News Service, Stanton co-founded [Discerning Deacons](#) in April of this year. It's an organization that urges conversation in the Catholic Church around ordaining women deacons. Stanton hopes it might add to ongoing efforts on multiple continents to restore women to the ordained diaconate, which the church in its early centuries allowed. On Monday (Sept. 13), a new commission set up by Pope Francis to study women in the diaconate began meeting for one week in Rome. It is the fourth group since the 1970s to discuss ordaining women deacons, and many are hoping they will release their recommendations publicly so the church can lay the groundwork for restoring the order. Francis has repeatedly called for a greater female presence in church leadership, and while he has continued church teachings against women priests, he changed church law to allow women to be installed as lectors and acolytes.

*Religion News Service*

Well friends, that's it for another week. I sure hope you enjoyed it. Here are your quiz answers and a little additional information:

1. On May 5th, 1862, the Mexican Army defeated the forces of Napoleon III, Emperor of France. A nephew of the more famous Napoleon Bonaparte, this fellow decided that Mexico was not paying off its loans from France quickly enough. So he invaded the country and attempted to squeeze the Mexican government and people. His forces were wiped out at the Battle of Puebla, in a defeat that even had an impact on the United States. Napoleon III was poised to deliver massive numbers of cannon and rifle-muskets to the Confederacy. But his defeat in 1862 so bankrupted his country and his military, that only a trickle of aid to the Rebel army could be delivered.
2. Tijuana is Mexico's second-largest city in terms of population. One of its nearest neighbors is the U.S. city of San Ysidro, California.
3. The 201st Fighter Squadron of the Mexican Expeditionary Air Force fought alongside American Army Air Corps and Navy fighters in the Battle of Luzon in the Philippine Islands. They flew 785 offensive sorties, losing only one plane and five pilots in combat. Three more men were killed in training exercises. The "Aztec Eagles" squadron is still part of the Mexican Air Force today.
4. The Aztecs served Hernan Cortes hot chocolate. In his diary, he called it "a divine drink that builds up resistance and fights fatigue." Cortes would introduce the cocoa bean to the Spanish court in 1527.
5. The bird on the Mexican flag is an eagle, symbolizing the Aztec heritage.