

## The Broken Plates

by Pringle Franklin

Her new dinner plates were bright and cheery, white with a blue rim and flowers in the center. Their clean potentiality seemed to represent the unfolding of a second chance for “Jeannette” and her son. They had recently transitioned from homelessness to being the first occupants of an affordable housing unit carved out in an otherwise upscale apartment building on the city’s gentrifying East Side. The granite countertops, the sunlight spilling through the tall windows, the cohort of smiling volunteers delivering furniture—all this seemed surreal to Jeannette, an hourly wage worker who for years had struggled to catch a lucky break.

She finally had a place to live and would soon have furniture of her own. Jeanette watched with a bemused smile as I and the other volunteers from St. Philip’s, serving as part of the Saturday work session with Hope to Home Furniture Resource, carried in chairs, lamps, and mattress sets and unpacked bins of household goods. Someone was stacking bowls, cups, and plates on the kitchen counter. But when the last two plates came out of the box, they were found to be broken.

Until that moment, Jeannette’s dark brown eyes had been alight with wonder and gratitude. Upon seeing the shards of china, Jeanette drew in her breath. Her face crumpled. Now she would have only four dinner plates for herself, her son, and a small congregation of nieces and nephews. That moment of disappointment felt larger than the loss of two plates; the shattered pottery insidiously suggested that this single mom would never escape the pain of her past regrets and ill-fated choices, that even in the midst of her blessings, she would still experience brokenness.

But the Lord was teed up to deliver a different message, one of redemption, of being remade into wholeness. And since He knows the future, He had started the sequence of events several days earlier when Becky Barber cast an eye around the pantry at her husband’s golf business, the Links at Stono Ferry. For some reason, a small stack of cornflower blue plates jumped out at her.

*These don’t belong here*, Becky thought. *They aren’t like the rest of the china*. When Becky asked about the oddball plates, the chef waved them off dismissively. Soon Becky had moved the stack into the back of her SUV. Later in the week, Becky packed her car with an assortment of additional household goods destined for the Hope to Home warehouse. The items were unloaded quickly on Saturday before Becky and her youngest son, Bowen, set out as part of the enthusiastic crew who would help outfit four homes for families in need. Jeanette’s place was the first stop.

When Becky saw the broken plates, a light bulb flashed in her mind. She remembered placing the cornflower plates into her car, but she did not recall seeing them come out. Soon she was outside on the street, lifting the tailgate and scanning the SUV’s storage area. No plates were in sight. And yet ... there was a lump under a white throw rug



tossed in the back. Becky lifted the rug’s corner. The perky blue plates appeared, as if waiting for their cue to take center stage. Soon Becky was back upstairs in Jeanette’s kitchen, placing four plates on top of the stack. They blended into an attractive mix-and-match set.

Jeannette beamed at how quickly the problem had been resolved, almost like magic. A moment later, her son came running out of his bedroom toward his mom. Volunteers had set up a twin bed for him and made it up with every little boy’s dream: blue Star Wars sheets. The eight-year-old hugged the pillow to his chest, his arms wrapped around the galactic scene; the dreamy look on his small face conveyed that he could hardly believe this was happening to him.

### ST. PHILIP’S CHURCH

142 Church Street | Charleston, SC 29401 | (843) 722-7734 | [stphilipchurchsc.org](http://stphilipchurchsc.org)  
**Office Hours:** 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday | 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Friday  
 Do you have a story to share? Email inSPIRE editor Lea Andrews: [landrews@stphilipchurchsc.org](mailto:landrews@stphilipchurchsc.org)



**We pray for the sick:** Sallie Barrera, Tim Bass, Jean Carlton, Babbie and Noel Casey, Diane Christensen, Karen Collins, Silas Cressman, Cullen Crowley, Sally Fayard, Mary Forbes, Dara Heikes, Susan Hemminger, Ken Holden, George Hooks, Marvin Kirkland, Robert Kizer, Wes Lewis, Rena Mack, Allison and Doug McAdams, Alan McNeel, Rene Meyer, Elaine Pendarvis, Eli Penn, Meredith Repik, Sally Rhett, Fran Sanders, Pete Sperr, Margaret Swanson, Jimmy Townsend, Lindsey Wing, and Libby Wright.

**We grieve with and pray for** Suzanne McCord and family on the death of her sister, Karen Morris Healey, on August 3.

**We pray for our expectant parents:** Elizabeth and William Bryan, Jill and Alton Phillips.

**Congratulations to** Sallie and Sam Barrera on the birth of their daughter, Dicksie Gregorie Barrera, on July 20.

**We pray for protection for those serving in the armed forces:** Becca Baird, Graham Blunt, William Bruce, Robert Cale III, Henry Clayton, David Daughtridge, Paul Economy, Noah Flowe, Eric Gaines, Morgan and Mason Herring, Andrew Kane, Quin Kane, Horry Kerrison, Frazier Kulze, John Mason, Zach McFadden, Philip Middleton III, Jackson Miller, Edward Pritchard, Nathaniel Rollings, David Scott, and Joey Villeneuve.

**We pray for our home and world missions:** Lowcountry Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Lowcountry Pregnancy Center, Star Gospel Mission, Suzy McCall and LAMB, for the medical missions to Honduras, for ministry to victims of genocide and AIDS in Rwanda, for the Persecuted Church, for Anglican Frontier Missions, for Uganda Christian University Partners, for Water Mission and the Global Water Center, and for St. Jean Baptiste, our sister church, and the schools in Haiti.

#### Collect for Sunday:

Almighty God, who hast given thy only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

- Romans 11:13-24
- Psalm 67
- Matthew 15:21-28



No inSPIRE or eSPIRE next week!

August 20, 2023

# St. Philip's inSPIRE

AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 15

## St. Philip's Volunteers Make Houses into Homes

by Barbara Spell



On Saturday, August 5th, a group of about 25 enthusiastic St. Philipians participated in a very rewarding morning with the Hope to Home Ministry. Hope to Home (H2H) is a Christian-based ministry whose mission is to collect new or gently used donated home goods, such as mattresses and pillows, and then deliver these essential home furnishings to displaced or formerly homeless individuals and families who have just secured housing. H2H transforms their empty living space into a comfortable home as we extend Christian love to the family.

At the H2H warehouse, volunteers put together packets of linens and kitchen items to be delivered to H2H families. Other volunteers joined the delivery teams and delivered the home goods to H2H families. During these deliveries, volunteers visited with the families, delivering a Bible, a children’s Bible, and a copy of a devotional booklet. In addition to providing for their physical needs, the delivery teams prayed with the family before leaving their home. The week after every delivery, a volunteer from H2H calls the family to provide them with information on local churches to try to make sure they are connected with a church of their choice.



Everyone at St. Philip’s can participate in this ministry, even if you cannot volunteer at the warehouse. Think about basic items around the house that you may no longer need. These items could make a house a home through H2H! The items most needed are dressers, coffee tables, small kitchen tables, kitchen chairs, couches, side tables, club chairs, lamps, and kitchen items such as pots and pans, cooking utensils, dishes, silverware, and small appliances. For anyone who enjoys tinkering with home goods that may need repair, such as refinishing or painting, H2H has volunteer opportunities for that as well.

And stay tuned for an inSPIRE announcement about a church-wide furniture/home goods donation day and also another volunteer opportunity in October for members of St. Philip’s! Visit our website, [stphilipchurchsc.org/home-missions](http://stphilipchurchsc.org/home-missions) for more information about H2H and all of the different ways to get involved with this very rewarding ministry.

Turn to the back page to read about how God’s plan to provide for an H2H family was at work through one of the volunteers before the workday.

## Goodbye, Summer!

for young adults, families, and youth

Sunday, August 27, 4:00–6:00 p.m. on the Parish House lawn

PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 21



As we say goodbye to the summer and get back to our fall routines, let’s get together for a time of encouragement and community! Young adults and parents are invited to enjoy a time of fellowship and mingling over heavy hors d’oeuvres, beer, wine, and sodas. After the fellowship time, we will have a brief session of teaching and encouragement, complete with information about all the ways you can stay connected. Meanwhile, youth and children will be entertained with activities of their own (including a pizza party!).



\$15\* per adult - Through August 21

\$20/adult - After August 21

Youth and kids 18 and under are free!

\*Pay-what-you-can option available.

Please register by August 21 at [stphilipchurchsc.org/events](http://stphilipchurchsc.org/events) or using the QR code above. However, if you realize you can join us after the deadline has passed, go ahead and register and please come on down (we always have leftovers)!

*This joint event for our young adult and family ministries is hosted by Justin Hare, David Gilbert, and Dorothy Lancaster.*

## Back-to-School Blessing

This Sunday, August 20

during the 10:30 service

*All students and teachers receive a blessing and a bag tag!*



