

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 "Jeanette" 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 Jeanette, an hourly wager 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, Jeanette'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 ready 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.

Jeanette 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 | stphilipschurchsc.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@stphilipschurchsc.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 McNeil, Rene Meyer, Elaine Pendavis, 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

August 20, 2023

St. Philip's inSPIRE

AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 15

No
inSPIRE or
eSPIRE
next
week!

St. Philip's Volunteers Make Houses into Homes

by Barbara Spell



On Saturday, August 5th, a group of about 25 enthusiastic St. Philippians 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, stphilipschurchsc.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 stphilipschurchsc.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!

House of Prayer: August Prayer Points

by Frenchie Richards, St. Philip's Prayer Ministry



"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." —Isaiah 56:7
"The effective fervent prayers of a righteous man avail much." —James 5:16a

Answered Prayers (Thank You, Lord):

1. For the successful La Gonâve Haiti Partners conference held at St. Philip's. 2. For the successful gathering of grandparents and grandchildren at the beach. Pray for continued guidance for Sandra Anderson and her team. 3. For Guv Gottshalk and Steve Graudin's adult forum summer series on Israel. 4. For the ongoing success of the outreach at Henry's on the Market: Theology on Tap for young adults and Mark Finlay's men's group. Bless the owner of Henry's abundantly. 5. For the good turnout for the Sunday Sundaes event. 6. For the excellent work and workmen restoring our church and buildings. For keeping them safe. 7. For Jeff's safe return from his vacation. 8. For the recent pouring out of the Holy Spirit in Salem, Oregon, and for the many young people that came to Christ. 9. For the release of the kidnapped nurse and child in Haiti.

Prayer Points (Local Needs)

1. For the young adults going off to college this month: May they have Godly roommates, Godly friends, and Godly teachers, and may they connect with good churches. 2. For Brian McGreevy and family to have a good vacation. Keep them safe and healthy. 3. For all of our clergy and families to be protected from any sickness, disease, and danger. 4. For the Generations Ministry plans to continue to come together. 5. For the Shine the Light Campaign to meet its goals and for our church to participate 100%. 6. For the heat wave to stop as well as the wildfires. 7. For blessings upon Paul Reese as he joins the music ministry team. 8. For the mentoring ministry to be successful. 9. For the children's choir beach retreat to be well attended. 10. For the fear of the Lord to be in all meetings and decisions that the SC State Supreme Court make. 11. For blessings and wisdom for our Governor McMaster.

Prayer Points (Nations)

1. For the people of Maui that have lost over 100 loved ones in the wildfire. Pray for comfort and for humanitarian aid to get through quickly. 2. For a peaceful solution and end to the war in Ukraine. 3. For the blockade to the grain shipments to be removed. 4. For an end to the protests in Israel. 5. For the coup in Niger to be stopped. 6. For the peace of Jerusalem and protection for Israel. 7. For our borders to be protected and the cartels to lose their power. 8. For the drug traffic leaders to be exposed and their network of communication broken. 9. For supplies to get through to the people in Syria suffering from the recent earthquake. 10. For the upcoming presidential debates to go smoothly. 11. Bring revival to America, Lord. Have mercy.

"His master said to him, 'Well done, you upright and faithful servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little, I will put you in charge of much.'" —Matthew 25:23 (The Amplified Bible).

May we at St. Philip's be found faithful in every assignment He gives us.



Sunday School Registration



Open now for infants, children, and youth through 12th grade!

Sunday school begins
Rally Sunday, September 10! Visit
saintphilips.churchcenter.com/registrations



CALENDAR

Sunday, August 20 ~ After Pentecost, Proper 15

The Rev. William K. Christian III, preacher

8:15 a.m. **Holy Communion: Rite I ~ Church**

Usher Howell Morrison

Lector Randell Stoney

Chalice Heather Dawson, Randell Stoney

10:30 a.m. Nursery and Children's Church ~ Parish House

10:30 a.m. **Holy Communion: Rite I ~ Church**

Back-to-School Blessing for Students and Teachers

Greeters Polly Dickson, Anne Meredith

Ushers Team 4: Bruce Freshley, captain

Lector Mark Phillips

Chalice Bill Warlick, Noel Casey, Foster Gaillard

Acolyte Mentor Brendan O'Shea

Monday, August 21

7:00 p.m. Come Further Up, Come Further In ~ Henry's on the Market

Tuesday, August 22

9:15 a.m. Staff Meeting ~ Ministries Hall, Parlor

7:00 p.m. Theology on Tap ~ Henry's on the Market

Wednesday, August 23

8:00 a.m. **Morning Prayer: 1928 BCP** ~ Chapel of the Good Shepherd

6:30 p.m. Women's book club, Macmurphy/McGreevy ~ off-campus

Thursday, August 24

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible study, Dana Heikes ~ Ministries Hall, Parlor

6:30 p.m. Women's Bible study, Gottshalk/Keller ~ off-campus

Friday, August 25

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study, Guv Gottshalk ~ Tea Garden

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study, Group Led ~ Ministries Hall, Parlor

8:45 a.m. Women's prayer group, Marnie Kerrison ~ Ministries Hall, Prayer Room

Sunday, August 27 ~ After Pentecost, Proper 16

The Rev. Brian K. McGreevy, preacher

8:15 a.m. **Holy Communion: Rite I ~ Church**

Usher TBD

Lector Lon Burris

Chalice Bob Kunes, Lon Burris

10:30 a.m. Nursery and Children's Church ~ Parish House

10:30 a.m. **Morning Prayer: Rite I ~ Church**

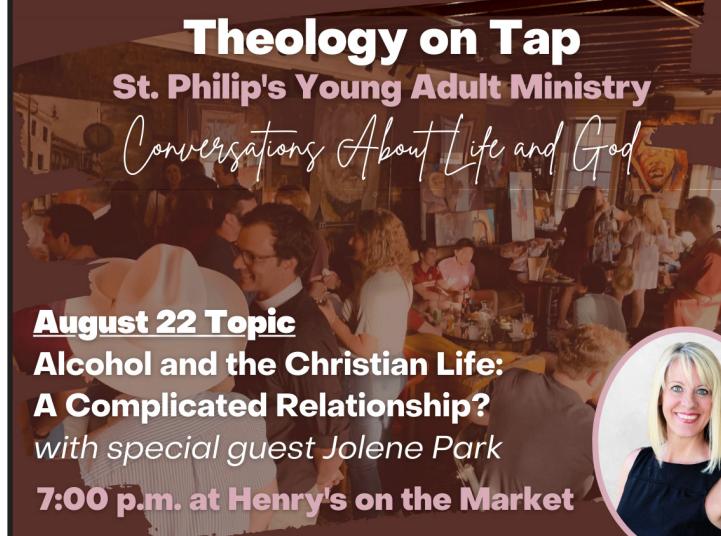
Greeters Jane and Chuck Galis

Ushers Team 5: Gregg Lancaster, captain

Lectors Noel Casey, TBD

Acolyte Mentor Cordes Ford

4:00 p.m. Goodbye, Summer! ~ Parish House Lawn



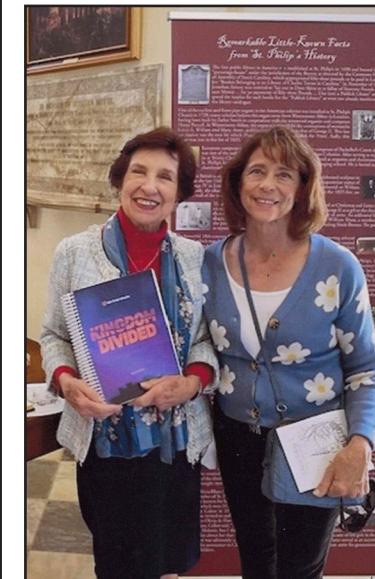
Questions about the calendar?

Need to reserve a room for a church meeting or event?

Contact Rachel Murphy: r Murphy@stphilipschurchsc.org

The Fruits of Open Door Hospitality

A letter from a visitor



Dear St. Philip's Church,
During a visit to Charleston last fall, we met Catherine Jones as we toured the sanctuary. We learned she was a BSF [Bible Study Fellowship] student, as was my wife, Claudette. We took a photo of them together which we'd like to share with you and trust you can get the print to Catherine.

At the Wednesday night service, we left a pastor with some prayer requests for two of my friends who were having health challenges, Jim Vaiana and Todd Teske. Since then, after some time, we can report positive outcomes for both men—and for Jim, a near-miraculous improvement. We thank you for the prayers. He does hear us.

We also treasure the fellowship in Christ we experienced in the two brief visits to St. Philip's.

Press on toward the high calling of Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Tom Siekmeier
Littleton, CO

Pictured above: Catherine Jones (left) with Claudette Siekmeier in October 2022. Catherine is one of several Open Door Ministry volunteers who open the sanctuary to visitors during the week for prayer and reverent touring.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 31 ~ Canterbury/St. David choir rehearsals resume
September 1 ~ ADOSC Night at the Riverdogs
September 7 ~ Grandparents@Prayer drop-in
September 8 ~ Middle School Youth Group resumes
September 10 ~ High School Youth Group resumes
September 10 ~ Rally Sunday (ministries fair, children's Sunday school, single service at 10:30, fellowship lunch)
September 13 ~ Wednesdays Alive! resumes
September 13 ~ Wednesday children's choir rehearsals resume
September 14 ~ Rector's Bible Study resumes
October 1 ~ Furniture Drive for Hope to Home
January 18–20, 2024 ~ Mere Anglicanism Conference

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Livestream link, printable bulletin:
Visit stphilipschurchsc.org/news on Sunday morning