

# St. Philip Invitation

◆ LIVE LIKE THAT: LOVE, FEED, SERVE.



June  
2026



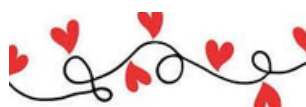
## Always Good to Have a Heart Check

In May, the St. Philip stewardship team posed the question What Makes Your Heart Sing?

The responses varied from remembrances of family, friends, and relationships, to connections with music and nature, to the heart singing possibility of a hole in one at the golf course.

Our hope is that this exercise has been an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the abundant life that God has given to this community of faith.

And as we sing with appreciation for that life, the stewardship team also hopes you have been able to connect those joys with thanksgiving



remembering Jesus' words to his disciples in Matthew's gospel "where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

On May 17 during worship, we at St. Philip consecrated to God the generosity we intend to give to share God's abundant life through the ministry of St. Philip. At the time of the newsletter deadline reports from consecration Sunday are still in process, but please know that it is your ongoing, faithful generosity that fuels our thankful response to God's grace as we love, feed, and serve.



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

BRONCE MONROE	6/3
MARTY FRAZIER	6/5
WENDY JOHNSTON	6/5
NOAH CAHILL	6/10
SHARON PRICE	6/20
KELLY BAYER DERRICK	6/26
DON HUNT	6/27
CHARLIE SHADIX	6/28



## SAVE THE DATE!!!

Roanoke Valley Lutheran Youth Group  
25th annual captain's choice  
golf tournament.

Blue Hills Golf Club  
Saturday, September 19, 2026.

Please mark your calendar to save this date for a day on the golf course and a day to support the ministry of faithful youth (We will let you know if we need to make adjustments but save this date).



## NEW MEMBERS AT ST. PHILIP

Together we are on a mission to Live Like That: Love, Feed, Serve. We are called together by God's Holy Spirit to be about God's work in the world. And we are grateful for that same Spirit who has called some newer disciples to add to our collective response to God's grace. Please welcome, include, engage with, and introduce yourself to:



**Jonathon and Laurel Freezer** - We moved to Roanoke in October of 2025 from Washington State, about 3 hours west of Seattle. Jonathon took a job as a Pediatric Hospitalist with Carilion and Laurel is a homemaker. We've been married since 2019, we met at work when I(Laurel) was Jonathon's boss. He says I'm still the boss :) We have 2 dogs and 2 cats. We enjoy working in our yard, keeping bees, and exploring the outdoors.

**Marcia Case** - I was born in Watertown, NY. Moved to Roanoke, VA in November of 1985. I have a daughter Kimberly and a son Douglass, 3 grandchildren, and 3 great grandsons. I retired from Elizabeth Arden Company and Kroger stores and now enjoy time serving as a bus monitor for our local school system. One fun fact: In the fall of 1992 to the spring of 1993 I leased the St. Philip parsonage where the Pastor Kelly and Pastor David live now prior to the construction of the current St. Philip building in 1993.

**Grace and Dasyn Shelton** are York, Pennsylvania natives who were recently married in August of 2025. They have been together for 10 years and moved to Roanoke, Virginia so Grace could pursue her MFA in creative writing at Hollins University. They've been loving their time at St Philip and greatly appreciate how they've been welcomed by the church.

Welcome  
Our New  
Members

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## QUILT OF VALOR PRESENTATIONS

Please join us on June 27th at 1:00 pm as Robert "Al" Simpson, George "Pat" Simpson and Donald Horton are presented with a Quilt of Valor. All family and friends are welcome to attend. Following the presentation you are invited to join us in a meal and fellowship. Meats and drinks will be provided we invite you to bring your favorite dish or salad to share.

The Quilt of Valor Foundation is a national organization begun in 2003 by Blue Star mom Catherine Roberts. Her son was serving in Iraq and she was very anxious about him. One night she dreamed of a post-deployment warrior struggling with his war demons. She then saw him sitting on the side of his bed and wrapped in a quilt. His demeanor changed from despair to hope and well-being. Because of the quilt. The quilt provided comfort and healing. It was from this vision that the Quilt of Valor (QOV) Foundation began. The first QOV was awarded to a young soldier in Walter Reed Hospital who lost his leg in Iraq.

QOV Foundation is a grassroots group of quilters from all across the United States. We are a team of volunteers who donate time, sewing skills and materials to make quilts to honor our nation's veterans and active service members. We are funded by donations, both monetary and in the form of fabric and supplies. Every penny and scrap of fabric is used to honor our local heroes. To date we have awarded over 427,000 quilts

Because of Catherine Roberts' dream, we don't just hand out our quilt to those being honored. We wrap each honoree in his or her quilt as a symbol of the warmth and healing, the gratitude and love we sew into every quilt we make. The mission of the QOV Foundation is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with a comforting and healing Quilt of Valor. The ceremony is very special and important. We thank them for their service, remind ourselves that freedom is not free and remind them that they are forever in our thoughts and hearts.



# COUNCIL NEWS FROM COUNCIL SECRETARY KAREN LOWDON

Council News -- May 2026  
Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary

Church Council met on Tuesday May 12 in person and via Zoom.

We welcomed two newly elected members, Pam Peters and Jessica Monroe. Mary Jo Sahm will serve another 2 year term and we have one opening for another member. The following were elected: David Mellon, Financial Secretary, Max Holland, Treasurer, Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary, Ellen Mehalic, Council President, and Brent Ferguson, Council Vice-President.

Pastor David was busier than usual during the Lenten and Easter season. He participates in local and synod events.

There was one baptism and the reception of six new members. Office admin duties are being managed by Pastor David, Maribeth Schermer, and Donita Moore. Several applicants have applied for the open office administrator position.

Exterior painting and power wash is scheduled for this summer and the Property Team continues to review security options and property maintenance.

Consecration Sunday is May 17 and all council members agreed to respond with pledge cards.

Treasurer's Report  
April receipts were \$20,802 and expenses were \$18,783.



## FROM THE CORNER...

### Pentecost: Living In the Spirit

Some years ago, I often prayed this prayer: "Lord, let me be more like Jesus" I didn't realize at the time that God might take me seriously and that being like Jesus meant I would have to experience things that Jesus experienced, things that were uncomfortable, hard, and very painful.

We have just entered the church season of Pentecost, the longest season of the church year. We celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday and were reminded, as we are annually, to renew our commitment to carry on Jesus' legacy of caring about and caring for others and that we are empowered by the Spirit to live out our faith in that legacy in practice every day. People of St Philip practice by loving, feeding, and serving in the local community, and loving, feeding, and serving is never done; it requires sacrifice, mercy, and grace. It requires experiencing like Jesus to be like Jesus, and it offers the opportunity for feeling richly blessed as a result of those experiences.

Perhaps Pentecost, the longest season of our church year, is our time to focus on the joy we receive from living the legacy and becoming more like Jesus.

*"I am the vine, and you are the branches." John 15:5*

Let us rejoice! Amen

Donita Moore, Ministry Associate for Worship and Engagement

8115 WILLIAMSON ROAD  
ROANOKE, VA 24019

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DAVID C. DERRICK, PASTOR (PASTORDAVID@STPHILIPLUTHERAN.NET)  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR (OFFICEADMIN@STPHILIPLUTHERAN.NET)  
DONITA MOORE, MINISTRY ASSOCIATE FOR WORSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT (WORSHIP@STPHILIPLUTHERAN.NET)

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

ELLEN MEHALIC, COUNCIL PRESIDENT; BRENT FERGUSON, COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT;  
MAX HOLLAND TREASURER; DAVE MELLON, FINANCIAL SECRETARY; KAREN LOWDON, COUNCIL SECRETARY;  
MEMBERS: MARY JO SAHM, JESSICA MONROE,  
DEDI SPRADLIN, MARIBETH SCHERMER, PAM PETERS

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LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.  
THE REVEREND PHYLLIS MILTON, BISHOP, VIRGINIA SYNOD

