

## Pastor's Message

About a year ago I learned that I was being appointed to St Paul's, and Lenee and I were so excited. I began to think about what that first Christmas Eve Candlelight service would be like. And as I thought about our first Easter here, I never would have imagined it would be like this.



Did you know that Easter is the only day on the Christian calendar that is set by the moon?

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. I think that is great that we see new life springing up in flowers and buds on the trees and we experience a new life in the risen Savior.

I love the words to the hymn by Eleanor Farjeon, or you may remember it being sung by Cat Stevens:

*Morning has broken like the first morning;*

*Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.*

*Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!*

*Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!*

I know that we are in these strange days of Stay at Home and Work Safe and yet all around us we are seeing new life springing up! I hope that you are still able to find ways to experiencing the joy of being Easter people.

Peace,  
 Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald  
 Senior Pastor

## Stay Connected with St. Paul's Family

*During this time of COVID-19 uncertainty, St. Paul's remains in connection in as many ways possible. Below is a summary of ways to connect.*

**Worship Services.** Worship online via [www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream) or via the St. Paul's app at the normal service times: Sunday mornings at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:05. In lieu of the mid-week communion services, a Message is live-streamed at 12:15 pm Wednesdays.

**Prayer and Care.** The prayer and care team is checking in with our community to connect in this difficult time. To submit a prayer request, contact Andrew Wolfe via [awolfe@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:awolfe@stpaulshouston.org) or Nina Hall via [nina@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:nina@stpaulshouston.org).

**Group Connections.** St. Paul's groups of all ages are meeting in a variety of creative ways. To connect with a group, learn how to use a video chat platform such as Zoom, or if your group would like to set up a remote meeting, contact Karyn Richards-Kuan via [krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org).

**News and Updates.** For regular updates and communication from the St. Paul's Family, check the church's Facebook page and the children's Facebook page, visit the St. Paul's Website, and subscribe to the weekly *Chimes* e-letter. To subscribe to the *Chimes*, e-mail Donna Adair via [dadair@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:dadair@stpaulshouston.org).

## Ways to Love Your Neighbors

**Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC).** 5401 Fannin (Abraham Station, across street from sanctuary). Questions? call Marian Bryant at 832-859-1065.

- ◆ Urgent need for sliced bread, fresh fruit and individually packaged fruit snacks, peanut butter crackers, and trail mix packs. Drop off at 5401 Fannin, Monday-Friday, between 9 am and 1 pm.
- ◆ Volunteers needed for food distribution at the EAC and to pick up purchased food and deliver it to the EAC
- ◆ Please do not bring clothing donations at this time. They will be appreciated when the EAC is able to re-open for full operations.
- ◆ The number of people fed by the EAC daily has increased from the norm of 300-350/day to 500 and is expected to continue increasing. The EAC remains one of the few organizations able to serve daily meals .



St. Paul's at Houston Food Bank

**Houston Food Bank (HFB).** Volunteer with St. Paul's on Wednesdays. Meet at St. Paul's at 12 noon to convoy to the HFB warehouse. Children age six up are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Register by noon the Monday prior to [prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org). The group finishes around 4 pm.

# St. Paul's Methodist Foundation Grants \$84,500 in Scholarships for Higher Education to 38 Students

For nearly 40 years, the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation has awarded scholarships to students pursuing degrees in higher education. Mary Linda Portner, Executive Director of the Foundation, is pleased to announce that this year \$84,500 in scholarships have been awarded to 38 students.

The Foundation currently administers 17 endowed scholarship funds that benefit high school seniors matriculating to institutions of higher education, as well as college undergraduate students and seminarians. An additional fund, honoring longtime St. Paul's School director Zane Anne Tiglet, is dedicated to assisting students at the pre-school.

Grant awards are based on the applicant's relationship to St. Paul's UMC, academics, extracurricular activities, recommendations, and a personal essay. Eight of the funds are restricted to specific parameters established by the donors. Recipients are selected annually by the Scholarship Committee of the Foundation.

## 2020 Scholarship Awards

The 2020 recipients of Foundation scholarships, along with the educational institution they will attend next semester and the funds granting their awards, are

**Sarah Anderson.** *Southwestern University.* Sadler Bible Class Scholarship, Wood-Young-Washburn Scholarship, and Bates Family Scholarship.

**Danilea Arena.** *University of Texas at Dallas.* Kurt and Tara Arnold Scholarship and Bates Family Scholarship.

**Keith Baines.** *University of Houston, Downtown.* Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Ruby Bazan.** *Houston Community College.* Robert L. Clark Scholarship.

**Benjamin Betts.** *University of Miami.* Anderson Music Scholarship and Kurt and Tara Arnold Scholarship.

**Charlotte Betts.** *Southern Methodist University.* Bates Family Scholarship and Wood-Young-Washburn Scholarship.

**Regan Blewer.** *St. Edward's University.* Alberta Baines Scholarship.

**Zada Boyce-Quentin.** *University of Hawaii at Manoa.* Alberta Baines Scholarship and Bates Family Scholarship.

**Caleb Brimmage.** *SMU Perkins School*

*of Theology.* Bankston Good Samaritan Scholarship, Swickheimer-Mays Scholarship, Carolyn and Alfred H. Freeman Scholarship, and Edith Dissinger Scholarship.

**Keaton Brown.** *San Francisco Conservatory of Music.* Anderson Music Scholarship, Edith Dissinger Scholarship, and Bates Family Scholarship.

**Liam Joseph Burhans.** *Texas A & M University.* Bates Family Scholarship and Blair Family Scholarship.

**Oswaldo Cortes.** *Texas A & M University.* Ellena P. & Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Emma David.** *Texas A&M University.* Bates Family Scholarship and William T. and Barbara Grisham Scholarship.

**Melony Davis.** *School undetermined at time of award.* Charles Francis Hiller Scholarship.

**Margaret Dorsey.** *Rice University.* Charles Francis Hiller Scholarship.

**Taylor Frick.** *School undetermined at time of award.* Edith Dissinger Scholarship and Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Jeremiah Green.** *Baylor University.* Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Nancy Hernandez.** *Texas State University.* St. Paul's Foundation Scholarship.

**Laura Hester.** *Hamilton College.* Bates Family Scholarship and St. Paul's Foundation Scholarship.

**Megan Hiers.** *Houston Baptist University.* Bates Family Scholarship and Jay and Renna Williamson Scholarship.

**William Hiers.** *The University of Texas at Austin.* Bates Family Scholarship and Eula Bakker Scholarship

**Christopher Knauth.** *Bard College at Simon's Rock.* Bates Family Scholarship.

**Camille MacLaren.** *University of Houston.* Bates Family Scholarship.

**Elaina Manalac.** *Loyola Marymount University.* Bates Family Scholarship.

**Megan McCollum.** *Louisiana State University.* Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Laurel McKelvey.** *University of Pennsylvania.* Bates Family Scholarship.

**McKenna Miller.** *School undetermined at time of award.* Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship. Ivan Moreno. Oklahoma City University. Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Alexandra Mosby.** *High Point University.* Bates Family Scholarship.

**Avery Olive.** *Centenary College of Louisiana.* Edith Dissinger Scholarship

**Claire Orr.** *University of the Incarnate Word.* Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Jordan Ramos.** *Middlebury College.* Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Julianna Reeves.** *University of Arizona.* Bates Family Scholarship.

**Taylor Schaunfield.** *Texas A & M University.* Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Allison Sullivan.** *University of Houston.* Bates Family Scholarship.

**James Thaler.** *The University of Texas at Austin.* Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship and Charles Francis Hiller Scholarship.

**Mathew Thomas.** *School undetermined at time of award.* Bates Family Scholarship and Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.

**Benjamin Tollett.** *The University of Texas at Austin.* Bates Family Scholarship and Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson Scholarship.



Thanks to our many members who have renewed their commitment to mission and ministry. Currently 116 households are making recurring gifts through Renew. If you have not yet enrolled in Renew, it's not too late to help St. Paul's "be the church" during this crisis and beyond. To Renew: [www.stpaulshouston.org/renew](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/renew)

# Scholarship Fund Descriptions

The scholarship awards listed on the previous page are derived from 17 endowed scholarship funds that benefit high school seniors matriculating to institutions of higher education as well as college undergraduate students and seminarians.

Eight of these funds are restricted to areas of interest dictated by their donors, while nine named funds are unrestricted. Donations may be made at any time to any of these funds, and new scholarship funds also may be established.

## Restricted Scholarship Funds

The restricted scholarship funds dedicated to specific purposes are listed below with a brief description of each:

**Anderson Music.** Honoring Frances Anderson and Robert (Bob) Brewer for their 20 years of leadership to the St. Paul's music program, this scholarship is for students majoring in music.

**Bankston Good Samaritan.** Honoring the Rev. Dr. Jim Bankston, St. Paul's senior pastor emeritus, and his wife Sandy, this need-based grant is designated for students pursuing ordination through the Master of Divinity program at SMU Perkins School of Theology.

**Robert Langdon Clark.** Established in memory of Robert L. (Bob) Clark, this scholarship supports students majoring in early childhood education (pre-K through third grade).

**Edith Dissinger.** Established by the estate of Edith Dissinger, this scholarship assists students pursuing a church-related vocation.

**Carolyn and Alfred H. Freeman.** Established in memory of the Rev. Dr. Al Freeman, St. Paul's senior pastor from 1956 to 1970, this scholarship is awarded to students preparing for the ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church.

**Wood-Young-Washburn.** Provides scholarships for students attending a college or university affiliated with the United Methodist denomination in the State of Texas.

**Sadler Bible Class.** Provides scholarships for students attending a college or university affiliated with the United Methodist denomination in the State of Texas.

**Swickheimer-Mays.** Established for students attending SMU Perkins School of Theology.

## Unrestricted Scholarship Funds

Unrestricted funds may be awarded to applicants meeting the requirements of the Scholarship Committee. These were established by or in honor of Kurt and Tara Arnold, Alberta Baines, Eula Bakker, Bates Family, Blair Family, Ellena P. and Robert H. Dickerson, William T. and Barbara Grisham, Charles Frances Hiller, St. Paul's Methodist Foundation, Jay and Renna Williamson

To update your membership records — including addresses and telephone numbers — or to schedule a baptism or flowers, please contact Rachel Wiggs via [Rachel@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:Rachel@stpaulshouston.org).

# Recent Gifts to St. Paul's Foundation

St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston has received the following gifts during the first quarter of 2020:

## General Fund

*Gifts by*

Linda Foley

Sol Bobst

*In Honor of Chanel Berns by*

Maribel Berns

*In Memory of Margaret Bingham by*

Janice and William Dana

Eva Williams

*In Memory of Linda Dean by*

St. Paul's Candlelighters

*In Memory of Alfred Lazzeri by*

Teresa and Bill Maines

Beverly and Kimball McMahan

*In Memory of Thelma Rowe by*

Janice and William Dana

Pat and Jim Walzel

Beth and Jim Wiggins

## Building and Facilities Funds

*Gift by*

Gwen Kunz

## James and Rosann Hooks Endowment

*In honor of Elizabeth Hawkins by*

Rosann Hooks

*In Memory of Thelma Rowe by*

Rosann Hooks

## Kerley Endowment Fund

*Gift by*

James Winn

## Landscaping Fund

*In memory of Margaret Bingham by*

The Sugar Land Sisters

## Ministers Continuing Education Fund

*Gift by*

Anonymous

To learn more about the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston and how you can honor or memorialize a loved one through it or simply give to one of the designated funds, please contact Mary Linda Portner, Executive Director, St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston, via [mlportner@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:mlportner@stpaulshouston.org).





Thanks Rev. Nataly Negrete's lead, St. Paul's has established a Green Team to make the church's activities and practices "greener." To join the team, share ideas and your own practices for the church and beyond, contact Helen Spaw via [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org). And check out the suggestions at [www.earthday.org/take-action-](http://www.earthday.org/take-action-)

## Grant Applications Due May 15

Through its permanent endowment, St. Paul's Foundation provides grants to a variety of organizations as well as to St. Paul's UMC for maintenance and ministry support. In 2019, the Foundation made 20 mission grants totaling \$83,835.

To download an application for submission by May 15, go to [www.stpaulshouston.org/foundation-grants](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/foundation-grants), where a list of 2019 award-ees and information about how to contribute to the grants also are provided.

Easter at St. Paul's traditionally is a season of gladness — joy in the risen Christ, delight in our worship, gratitude for the beauty of spring, and happiness in the fellowship of family and friends. During this year's strange Holy Week and Easter Sunday, we are worshipping remotely and in self-isolation. Despite these challenges, St. Paul's staff has re-imagined Holy Week services and Easter Sunday in formats that have allowed our congregants to be engaged and inspired.

And despite social distancing, St. Paul's continues to "be the church" through outreach to the underserved and the marginalized in our community and congregation.

In this extraordinary season, we remain committed to mission and ministry. We also have committed to retain our staff — both clergy and lay. These commitments are made possible by the generous and faithful support of the St. Paul's community through your stewardship gifts.

Please consider making an Easter offering — over and above your regular stewardship giving — that will enable St. Paul's to continue to "be the church" in these extraordinary times and to be the church you expect of us when we reach the other side of this crisis.

To make an Easter offering, simply go to the St. Paul's app, or go to [www.stpaulshouston.org/give](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/give), or mail your check to the church office at 5501 Main; Houston, TX 77004.

## St. Paul's Family Deaths

Deepest sympathy to Christie Higgs on the death of her mother, Kay Bozarth, who died February 28, 2020, in Jacksonville, Illinois

Deepest sympathy to Rae and Homie Rowe on the death of her father, Joe Custer, who died in Port Lavaca on March 6, 2020.

Deepest sympathy to Becki Brickwedde and Chris Bisel and their families on the death of their father, Gordon Bisel, who died March 27, 2020. A memorial service will be scheduled at St. Paul's.

To notify the church of deaths, hospitalizations, illnesses, or other concerns email [nina@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:nina@stpaulshouston.org).

## Convivio: Life Together

Since late last year, a group of staff and laity have gathered to address immigration and St. Paul's. Initially spurred by the "Public Charge" rule that penalizes immigrants based on socio-economic status, the group also saw the need to bring together ministries connected with or related to immigrants.

Rather than developing new ministries, the goal is to build mutually affirming relationships among St. Paul's members who are a part of the English-language ministries and those who are a part of the Spanish-language ministries — despite the language-barrier as well as socio-economic challenges this would present.

Yet, participating in social interaction of mutuality is indeed sacred. We look forward to our first gathering of **Convivio: Life Together** when we are able to gather again in large groups.

## Healing Circles Go Zoom

Healing Circles help us step out of ordinary time into a safe and accepting environment in which to explore our healing.

During Stay-at-Home orders, a Healing Circle for Social Distancing Support is meeting via Zoom on Wednesdays from 10 to 11am.

For more information or to obtain the meeting link, email Helen Spaw via [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org).

Contact her also to inquire about other Circles that she conducts throughout the year, including for cancer support, healing of racism, claiming peace, art of parenting, and women.

## Foundation Makes Emergency Grant

Thanks to a grant from the St. Paul's Foundation, the Main Street Ministries is providing emergency funds to clients referred by St. Paul's who are faced with possible evictions after the coronavirus moratorium has elapsed. Funding was provided by Foundation's Houston Poverty Outreach Fund.

"We are grateful to have resources available through the generosity of those who have supported the Foundation," said Johanna Wolfe, Foundation Board Chair. "During this crisis, this support is enabling us to help those in our community who have lost jobs and are seeking ways to remain in their homes and care for their families."