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Pastor's Message

In Brennan Manning's *Reflections for Ragamuffins*, he tells the story of being challenged by a series of questions that were asked of him:

Do you ever reflect upon the fact that Jesus feels proud of you? Proud that you accepted the faith that he offered you? Proud that you chose him for a friend and Lord? Is he proud that you haven't given up? Proud that you believe in him enough to try and try again? Proud that you trust that he can help you?

Do you ever think that Jesus appreciates you for wanting him, for wanting to say no to so many things that would separate you from him? Do you think Jesus can ever be grateful to you for pausing to smile, comfort, give to one



Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald
Senior Pastor

of his children who have such great need to see a smile, to feel a touch?

Do you ever think of Jesus being grateful to you for learning more about him so you can speak to others

more deeply and truly about him?

He said, "I do not call you servants, but friends..."

What an amazing way to look at our faith. What a great way to take a daily inventory on how we live our lives — as the long, hot days of Summer begin to wind down, as this odd summer ends and we move into an odd Fall with virtual Promotion Sunday.

The Texas Annual Conference will meet August 14, virtually. Please be in prayer for our lay and clergy delegates and the important decision we will be making. On the 15th the Ordination Service will be streamed; you will want to watch for Karyn's ordination as well

continued on page 2



SUNDAY WORSHIP
streamed on our website and YouTube
Sundays at 8:30, 9:45, 11:05am

MORNING PRAYER
available on YouTube each Monday

EVENING COMPLINE
live via Zoom on Mondays at 8:30pm

MIDWEEK MESSAGE
available on YouTube each Wednesday

MONTHLY COMMUNION
live via Zoom on first Sundays 4pm

www.stpaulshouston.org/worship

Online Worship and Prayer Options Expand

On Monday, August 3, St. Paul's will begin another weekly online worship opportunity: Compline. An ancient and beautiful service of evening prayer, Compline has been the last service of the day in the monastic tradition for more than 1500 years. Conducted via Zoom, the service will include responses, psalms, scripture, a hymn, and an opportunity to pray for personal concerns.

Compline joins other worship and prayer options that are now available online. The complete schedule, Sunday through Wednesday, is listed on page 2.

Sabbath, Even Now

In our liturgical life together we strive to be full, active, conscious participants — especially when we are physically distanced from one another. To support the St. Paul's community in its worship and prayer, we are grateful for new opportunities like Monthly Communion, Morning Prayer, Compline, and a widely available Midweek Message.

As we expand online worship, we also are mindful of another ritual that God leads us in: Sabbath. When we take Sabbath, we make the conscious effort to recognize and re-learn that the world, our worship, and our worth does not rest upon our shoulders. We renew our trust in God and in Christ who leads us in worship; a God who rested and who bids us rest as well!

With joy and gratitude, the worship team will set aside the first week of August for Sabbath, to step back for creative and spiritual renewal. We'll still worship together throughout the week, but all will be prepared beforehand. Despite the strangeness of life in a pandemic, we pray that you will join in the practice of Sabbath, even now.

Online Worship Schedule and More

To accommodate the variety of online worship experiences and presentations, the access points on the website have been streamlined.

The navigation menu at the top of the website now lists two new options: *Worship* and *Stream*. Tabs under *Worship* are “Worship Opportunities,” “Stream,” “Service & Sermon Archives,” and “Upcoming Services.” Some of the features under *Worship* also are available through *Stream*.

From the “Worship Opportunities” page, a simple click on the appropriate picture will take you to that service. A preview of each is provided below:

Sunday Morning Worship. The same pre-recorded service is available at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:05 am each Sunday morning. This button takes you to the *Stream* tab, which will be described in more detail at right.

Monday Morning Prayer. This new pre-recorded 15-minute service is provided as a guide for your practice of Morning Prayer throughout the week. Click on the image to access that week’s Morning Prayer any day of the week. A new Monday Morning Prayer will be posted each week.

Monday Compline: A Service of Evening Prayer. This service includes responses, psalms, scripture, a hymn, and an opportunity to prayer. Click on the image about 15 minutes prior to the service, and when the Zoom link becomes available, click on it to access the service. This will not be available on YouTube during or after the service

Midweek Message. These 15-minute pre-recorded devotions by St. Paul’s pastors look ahead to the scripture lessons for the following Sunday. Click on the image to access that week’s Midweek Message.

Monthly Communion. Until we may physically gather together and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the same place, Christ’s table remains open via Zoom to all who desire it. This service will occur the first Sunday of the month at 4 pm. To prepare and participate, gather a candle, simple bread or cracker, and a beverage. Click on the Monthly Communion image about 15 minutes prior to the service. When the Zoom link is available, click to join the gathering. This will not be available on YouTube during or after the service

Attendance Registration. Please let us know when you have been worshipping with us. This form also may be used to update your email address.

Prayer Requests. Use this at any time.

Give Online. This blue button a direct link to the secure online giving webpage.

Pastor’s Message *from page 1*

as offerings from our Choral Scholars and the St. Paul’s Choir. Links to watch will be in *The Chimes*.

I hope you continue to look for ways God is calling to you to be at work building the kingdom here on earth.

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you;

he rises to show you compassion.

For the Lord is a God of justice.

Blessed are all who wait for him!

— Isaiah 30:18

Peace,

Jeff

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald, Sr. Pastor

Features through the New Stream Webpage

Features of the new stream webpage, www.staulshouston.org, include:

Quick links at the top go to **Worship Opportunities**. This goes to “Worship Opportunities” within www.stpaulshouston.org/worship, described at left.

Sermon /Sermon Archives. Both audio and video recordings of previous sermons are here. This also is a tab within www.stpaulshouston.org/worship.

Upcoming Services. This holds worship resources, including the Lectionary lessons with one of the scriptures illuminated by art, the upcoming Sunday’s worship bulletin, and children’s activity bulletins; who will be preaching and, when available, the sermon title; and the music to be sung that Sunday.

Attendance Registration and Give Online. These button go to the same webpages described under Worship Opportunities.

Media Stream. Click on the appropriate picture to play the service or other presentation, such as the July 26 “Organ Pops Concert and Tour inside the Pipes.”

Other. The *Worship* and *Stream* pages are works in progress. Additional adjustments may be made.

ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON

AUGUST HEALING CIRCLES

all via Zoom

Single Moms Circle
Tuesdays @ 8:30 pm

Pandemic Life Support
Wednesday, August 12 @ 10:30 am

Healing of Racism Art Circle in conjunction
with the Center for the Healing of Racism
Third Thursday, August 20, from 10 to 11:30am

To connect: email Helen Spaw via
hspaw@stpaulshouston.org

Gratitude for Generous Bequest *by Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald*

This summer we have been hearing from friends in the St. Paul's family about gratitude. I'm grateful for the Kingsbury family. The family joined back in the 1950's and had various leadership positions at St. Paul's, Warren Kingsbury served as Chair of the Administrative Board. Doug Kingsbury died about a year ago while Bill and Jane are still a part of the St. Paul's family.

Doug was an entrepreneur and started a charter plane and helicopter business. He painted, dabbled in recording music, and had a great guitar collection. He loved his dogs, Duke and Darla, and made sure that in his death they would be cared for.

You may be wondering how I know all this. The reason is that Doug had the foresight and care to remember St. Paul's in his will. His careful planning set up the care of Duke and Darla and he left the remainder of his estate to his church. I can't give you an exact amount at this time as there are still assets to be sold but I can tell you that his generosity will have a long-lasting impact on St. Paul's.

In our polity the Book of Discipline states that the Trustees are charged with accepting bequests to the church and they have done an outstanding job. The first distribution will cover the portion of the Revive campaign that was not pledged, establish the Kingsbury Building Fund and a Capital Replacement Fund that will be placed with the St. Paul's Foundation. A portion has been set aside to provide seed money for a future building project such as the needed repairs to our organ. A tithe from the distributions will go to a missions account to allow us to begin some hands on, direct, relationship building projects.

John Wesley believed money was important as a way of expressing and living out our Christian faith. To him the task was simple: earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can. I'm thankful that the Kingsbury family, and Doug especially, took this to heart.

Thank you for your continued prayers, kindness, and support in these times.



A sign to indicate that St. Paul's sanctuary building has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places has now been placed at the Plaza entrance to the building.

St. Paul's Family

Deepest sympathy to:

Carol and Jimmy Tindall and their family on the death of Jimmy's sister, Dianne Mitchell, who died May 23, 2020, in North Carolina.

Jana and Casey Nance on the death of Jana's mother, Betty Ruth Boyd Harper, who died in Elgin on June 20, 2020. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's on August 8, 2020.

Susie and Josh Vanlandingham and their family on the death of Susie's grandfather, Cary (Ben) Benjamin Jones, who died on June 23, 2020, in North Carolina.

Marcia and Tom Faschingbauer on the death of Marcia's sister, Kay Schaffer, who died on July 14, 2020.

Brett Falkenhagen and Javier Garza on the death of Brett's Aunt Carleace ('Leace) Nunnally on July 18, 2020, in Birmingham, AL.

Deepest sympathy to Nancy and John Curry and their family on the death of John's brother, Gary Curry, who died July 24, 2020, in Reagan Wells, Texas.

Angela and Billy Burks on the death of Billy's brother, Robert Burks, who died in July.

Recent Gifts to St. Paul's Foundation

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

General Fund

By

Anonymous
Marion Henry

In Memory of Myra Branyon by
St. Paul's Men's Bible Study

In Memory of Gordon Bisel by
Debbie and Frank Jones
Pat and Jim Walzel

Wilson and Nora Boots Mission Fund

By

Carol and Frank Childress

Building and Facilities Fund

By

Mr. and Mrs. John Munday

James and Rosann Hooks Endowment

In Memory of Richard E. Flaherty by
Carol Wiener

Puckett Music Fund

By

Ken Coleman

In Memory of Betty Jean Thompson by
Harmon Langford
Arlene and Ben Wells
Beth and Jim Wiggins

Senior Citizens Fund

In Memory of Charles Johnson by
Mary Linda Portner and Paul Fisher

In Memory of Tom Johnson by
Mary Linda Portner and Paul Fisher

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.

Please inform the Church of births, hospitalizations, illnesses, deaths in your family, or other concerns.

Email Nina Hall via
nina@stpaulshouston.org.

Thanks to the Many Who Made Healthcare Worker Meals Possible

This spring, St. Paul's members Jim Benton and Jeff Henningsen made their catering services (Jim Benton of Houston) available to feed emergency room staff, supported via the Ordinary Life class. This opportunity also was made known via the *Chimes* e-letter.

In June, after Marcy Boyd's daughter-in-law told her of the dire situation for nurses at her hospital, Marcy asked the Ordinary Life Women to support an effort to provide food for hospital staff treating COVID patients.

To learn more and help support this continuing effort, email Marcy via marcy.boyd@gmail.com.

On July 8, thanks again to support via St. Paul's, Jim Benton of Houston delivered food to the Houston Methodist Hospital chaplaincy staff. That is a less visible, yet highly stressed, group during the current COVID-19 emergency.

For more information about this, contact Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald via jmcdonald@stpaulshouston.org.

The Tuesday Morning Lectern Bible Study Class also has contributed toward these efforts. If you or your group also has contributed to these or similar efforts, please let us know. Email dadair@stpaulshouston.org.

To suggest other ways to help, please contact Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan via prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org.

Memory Training Series

Amazing Place continues to offer a variety of connections programming to support families with persons experiencing mild to moderate dementia.

A free four-part Memory Training series begins Wednesday, August 5, via Zoom. For more information about this class and other Connections Programs through Amazing Place, see www.amazingplacehouston.org/connections-program.

Help with Rent and Utilities



Many living marginally before COVID are facing homelessness.

Contribute to COVID relief:

www.stpaulshouston.org/give or checks to St. Paul's UMC

write COVID Relief on memo line

As soon as Houston's shut-down orders went into effect this spring, St. Paul's Foundation took decisive action and through the collective action of Mary Linda Portner, Rev. Nataly Negrete, Amy Taylor, and Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan, St. Paul's leaned into its partnerships with Main Street Ministries to help those in our community who are out of work and struggling to pay rent.

Following the lead of the Foundation, gifts from the Ordinary Life class and others have allowed this support to continue, particularly for individuals in the undocumented community who are not eligible for federal support yet often work in industries hardest hit by shut down orders — and the spread of COVID-19.

To contribute to this fund, write a check to St. Paul's United Methodist Church Houston with "COVID Relief" on the memo line and mail it to 5501 Main St, Houston, TX 77004, or donate online through www.stpaulshouston.org/give. Scroll down to the blue "Give Online" box, change the "Fund" box to "Other/Events," and write "COVID Relief" on the Memo line.

For more information, email Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan via prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org.



Savvy Caregiver

Caregivers learn about dementia & its effects on behavior and develop strategies for caregiving and related decision making.

6-part series begins August 20 @ 11:30 am

Details & Register:

scantrell@amazingplacehouston.org.

Amazing Place is a therapeutic day program for persons with mild to moderate dementia and is partially supported by St. Paul's. This free Savvy Caregiver series is provided in collaboration with St. Paul's.

MacGregor Music Magnet

email
prichards-
kuan@
stpauls
houston.org



Help children at St. Paul's adopted school be technology-ready & have musical instruments

St. Paul's and nearby MacGregor Elementary School have had a long-term relationship, particularly through the MacGregor Mentors program headed by Bob Mahlstedt.

The certainty of how that program will function this year, if at all, has been superseded by the certainty that the early parts of this school year and possibly much beyond will be conducted through distance learning — with technology many MacGregor children do not have.

Help these children be technology-ready and donate old laptops or tablets or funds for purchasing them. Donations of musical instruments for these music magnet students to use for practice at home are needed as well.

For more information, contact Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan via prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org

NOTE: Due to uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Emergency Aid Coalition will not be conducting its annual Books & Backpacks program this year.

Summer of Gratitude

Did you offer a prayer of thanks when you saw the comet last month or the planets glowing in the night sky?

Or, for the refreshment of rain after endless days of triple digit temps?

Have you re-discovered long-forgotten pleasures like puzzles or bread baking?

Have you found more time to sleep or pray?

We would love to hear your thoughts on gratitude, either by video or note. To learn more, please contact Mary Linda Portner: mlportner@stpaulshouston.org

EAC Adapts to Serve Growing Clientele

The Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC) continues to serve approximately 400 sack lunches each weekday, requiring clients to practice physical distancing and providing masks for those without.

Urgent needs vary a bit each week. To ensure receiving the weekly update, email info@eachouston.org.

Ongoing needs include boxer shorts in sizes M, L, and XL; men's jeans, sizes 30, 32, and 34 in various lengths; and large tubs of peanut butter. Also needed are fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas); peanut butter or cheese crackers; large jars of grape jelly, canned fruit, individually packaged trail mix, and "pop-top" items with protein such as tuna, Vienna sausages, pork and beans, bean dip, and Chef Boyardee pasta meals.

Shop Amazon wish list: <https://a.co/3b79tEQ>. And donate local bakery goods through Three Brothers Bakery: www.3brothersbakery.com/product/provide-a-mitzvah-make-a-donation.



Clothing Center Volunteers

Pack items for no-contact distribution



M-F from 9 am to noon
Details: Call Marian
832-859-1065

This volunteer opportunity will be conducted in a safe environment with physical distancing, and the wearing of masks and gloves will be enforced. Masks and gloves also will be provided, as needed. To help ensure safety for all concerned, the EAC has adopted a new appointment system for services. The clients are requested to use this system so the packed clothing items can be delivered to them safely at "curbside." For more information, please call Marian Bryant at 832-859-1065.

Programming for Children, Youth, and Parents

The end of summer will be marked with the annual Locomotion Promotion on Sunday, August 30 — virtually. See pictures of previous Locomotion Promotion Sundays on page 7.

To ensure receiving the latest information for children, Youth, and their parents, email Kat Denton via kat@stpaulshouston.org.

Children's Choirs information, including registration forms, is at www.stpaulshouston.org/childrenschoirs

Until fall programming begins September 13, this summer schedule remains (exceptions noted):

CHILDREN (infants-5th graders)

Children and their families are encouraged to hold their own Sunday school classes at home with resources in the Kids Sunday School Lessons Dropbox Folder mailed to children's homes each week. The folder includes lessons with learner leaflets, lesson plans, and staff-produced videos.

Joyful Noise music and worship assembly for three-year-olds through 1st graders, meets at 9:45 am via Zoom. To connect: kflint@stpaulshouston.org or atea.garden@stpaulshouston.org.

GROW (2nd-5th-grades) meets via Zoom on Sundays from 10:45 to 11:05 am when leaders introduce the lessons to continue at home.

See St. Paul's Children's Facebook Page for activity ideas and children's news.



To help keep the information at www.stpaulshouston.org/stay-connected up-to-date, please send any changes with your class or group to dadair@stpaulshouston.org. Changes to update include class topics, meeting times or dates, contact person to connect with the class.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS. (Wesley Singers, Choristers, and Treble Choir)

Fall activities begin September 7 when will work the Voice for Life curriculum and explore music theory and private vocal pedagogy. Test for medals and be music efficient when come back together as choirs.

Register via: www.stpaulshouston.org/childrenschoirs.

Questions? atea.garden@stpaulshouston.org.

YOUTH (6th-12th graders)

Youth Watch Party to see *Just Mercy* together via Zoom on Sunday, August 2, at 2 pm. Discussion at 5 pm. All invited. To connect: tiffin@stpaulshouston.org.

Youth meet via Zoom on Sundays at 2 pm and Wednesdays at 7 pm.

PARENTS. (All via Zoom)

Amazing Parents, Amazing Kids (APAK). For families with children with special needs. Meets first Sundays @ 1 pm. To connect, email Jennifer West via jcjwest@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Moms Hang Out. Second and Fourth

Mondays at 8 pm. To connect, email Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org. New study began July 13 focusing on identifying implicit bias in our parenting as we strive to raise children with better awareness of social justice.

St. Paul's Single Moms Circle. 8:30 pm. To connect, email Helen Spaw via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

FINE ARTS ACADEMY (children-adults)

Registration for the fall term's begins on August 10 via www.stpaulshouston.org/fine-arts-academy.

The online lessons and classes begin September 14.

Wellness and Support

AA, Al-Anon. In lieu of physically hosting AA, Al-Anon, and other outside support groups, St. Paul's provides a resource compiled by The Council on Recovery. This comprehensive list, accessed via www.councilonrecovery.org/covid19 includes links to help lines, online Chat Support Groups, Remote 12-Step Programs, and Stress Management Resources.

Amazing Place. See page 4.

Healing Circles. See page 2.

Heart Health Support Group conducted by Houston Methodist Hospital. Second Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. To receive reminders with connection information and the month's topic, email facilitator Wayne Brewer via wbrewer878@aol.com.

Houston Methodist Hospital. Stay up-to-date with the latest accurate information about COVID-19. www.houstonmethodist.org/coronavirus

Tai Chi. Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 am. To connect, email Byron York via byronyork@me.com.





Locomotion Promotion August 30

A virtual Locomotion Promotion will be celebrated August 30 to mark this major milestone in the lives of our children and Youth. Take a look back below at recent years of Locomotion Promotion.



2019 "enhanced" by construction barrier background



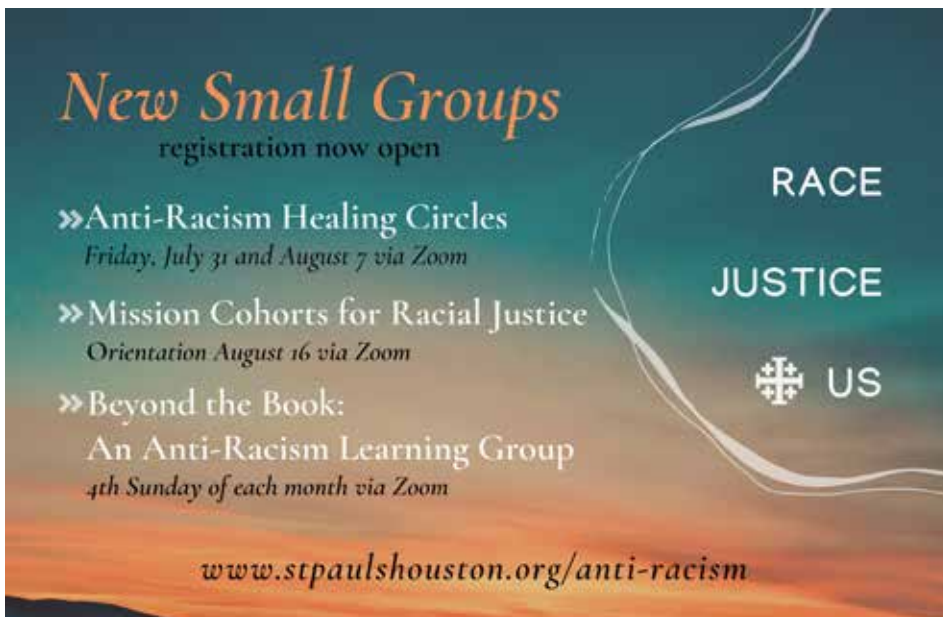
St. Paul's member and SEARCH Coming Home mentor Jenny Meyer readies food for delivery to clients of SEARCH Homeless Services. St. Paul's children are among those who prepare cards similar to the one at left to accompany these meals. To learn more about this service opportunity or to help, email Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan via prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org.



The Activity Center (gymnasium) floor was refinished in July. This was to repair damage due to a third-floor air conditioning pipe that broke before the Revive construction project began. Earlier this summer, all of the woodwork that over the years had become mismatched was refinished.



St. Paul's Youth Families celebrated National Ice Cream Day with a drive-by distribution of ice cream at the church. Thanks to Tiffin Wilsford and Oksana Schwack for creatively keeping the Youth engaged over this strange summer. Tiffin also has been delivering "drive-by" birthday greetings to our Youth, and Oksana is starting a Youth book discussion group.



St. Paul's provides and recommends opportunities to overcome racism, both continuing and new. These are described more thoroughly at www.stpaulshouston.org/anti-racism where a registration form also is provided. Among them are **St. Paul's Moms Group** is identifying implicit bias in their parenting as they strive to raise children with better awareness of social justice. Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays at 8 pm via Zoom.

her | meneutics is studying Willie Jennings' commentary on Acts as they share spiritual practices centered around implicit bias. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Missions Cohorts for Racial Justice is for those serious about taking action for racial justice and are willing to learn and unlearn toward that action. Orientation: Sunday, August 16 via Zoom at 2 pm.

Beyond the Book: An Anti-Racism Learning Group will read books on race and justice, alternating monthly with action. Meets 4th Sunday of month, starting August 23, from 1 to 3 pm via Zoom.

Anti-Racism Healing Circles are especially for this season after the 40 Days of Prayer and Listening. Meets Fridays, July 31 and August 7, from 1 to 2 pm. Conducted by Helen Spaw, who also continues the Healing of Racism Art Circle in conjunction with the Center for the Healing of Racism. See page 2.



"With grateful hearts we give thanks to Main Street Ministries for sharing every Tuesday produce from their garden with those in need." (Example at left)

— Rev. Nataly Negrete
Associate Pastor for Fe y Esperanza

Help start a Community Garden at St. Paul's. All interested in any phase from planning to maintaining are invited to a Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 13, from 10:30 to 11:15 am. To connect, email Helen Spaw via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

Thank You for Your Survey Response

We are immensely grateful to the St. Paul's community: we received more than 500 responses to the Congregational Survey!

A preliminary analysis confirms that our people are thoughtful, engaged, and have strong opinions. It had been our intention to publish the findings of the survey in the August issue of the Monthly Newsletter, but your responses deserve more than a cursory reading.

We are giving the survey responses a careful review and will share the analysis with our community during the month of August.

Thank you for your patience and enthusiastic participation.

Webinars, Podcasts with Ordinary Life

Two Ordinary Life guest lectures previously planned to be live will now be presented in webinar format.

Michael Morwood will present on August 27, from 7 to 9 pm. Title: "Rethinking our Faith in Light of Evolutionary Cosmology."

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis will present on October 17, from 9 am to 3 pm. Title: "Answering the Call."

A former Catholic priest, Morwood is an adult faith educator. Recent books include *Prayers for Progressive Christians* and *It's Time: Challenges to the Doctrine of Faith*.

For more about Lewis, Senior Minister for Public Theology and Transformation at MiddleChurch in Manhattan, see www.jacquilewis.com and read her blog: www.middlechurch.org/news/jacqui

These events will be free of charge. When the registration process is determined, it will be available via the Ordinary Life website: www.ordinarylife.org