

ST. PAUL'S HOUSTON St. Paul's Monthly Newsletter

5501 Main at Binz/Bissonnet • Houston, TX 77004 713-528-0527 | www.stpaulshouston.org



Pastor's Message

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force — no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

— Acts 2:1-4; The Message On June 5 we celebrate Pentecost in the church. It is one of the principal



days of the Christian year, celebrated on the 50th day after Easter. The Greek word pentecoste means 50th day.

Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red. Because it was the custom in the early church for persons to be baptized on Pentecost, they would wear white robes or clothing that day.

Our time at Annual Conference reminded me of our call to be disciples of Jesus and that the power of the Holy Spirit is that which enables us to do the work to which we are called. We remember how we are of one mind, one family, proclaiming to our community the good news of Jesus Christ.

Peace, Rev. Dr.Jeff McDonald, Senior Pastor



Celebrate the Day of Pentecost with an Evensong service sung by St. Paul's Choir. Sunday, June 5, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary.



All are invited to celebrate and affirm the LGBTQIA+ community at the Pride Picnic on Sunday, June 26, at 12:15 pm in Fondren Hall. The picnic will include lunch and Pride trivia. A suggested donation of \$15 dollars will help cover the costs. For more information, including how to RSVP and how to donate support, please go to www.stpaulshous ton.org/events/2022/6/26/pride-picnic or call 713-528-0527.

Art Tent Modified for Summer

Art Tent activities have been modified for the summer due to heat safety concerns. Rather than working on art directly with Emergency Aid Coalition clients in the Abraham Station parking lot, clients will be offered Art Kits that will include art supplies and hopeful messages. This approach will be a pilot during June with the anticipation of continuing it through August.

Volunteer orientation and preparation for the fall Art Tent will be conducted in September. Questions? hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

St. Paul's Family



St. Paul's 2021-22 Confirmation Class. See names below.

New Members.

Welcome these members of the 2021-22 Confirmation Class who were confirmed on May 1, 2022: Alyssa Colleen Barrett, James Winston Beebe, Linden Elizabeth Beebe, Faithe Elizabeth Choate, Zoe Pearl Clonce, Reed Davis Cross, Alexander Davis Cross, Marcus Gabriel Flores, Miguel Jordan Flores, Paul Alexander Irishkov, Colin Clarke Luck, Ainsley Claire Mann, Davis Wylie Mann, Kaitlin Christine Marcell, Mac Kimball McMahan IV, Kieran Reid Thomas O'Malley, Reese Lacy Riseden, David Kenneth Schorre, and Madeline Rose Witz.

Birth.

Congratulations to Leta and David Barry on the birth of their granddaughter, Rey Katherine Barry, born March 31, 2022, in Marietta, Georgia. Baptisms.

Alexandra and James Comerota presented their daughter, Amelia Margaret Comerota, born February 10, 2020, for the Sacrament of Baptism on May 8, 2022.

Sarah Beth Roberts and Stakely McConnell presented their son, William Paul McConnell, born February 16, 2021, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on May 8, 2022.

Ashley and Mark Amsbaugh presented their son, Jeffry Kent Amsbaugh II, born March 31, 2022, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on May 31, 2022.

Member Weddings.

Congratulations to Sandra Megerlin and Charley Crosson, who were married on May 6, 2022, at The Arlo in Austin, TX. Charley is the son of Linda and Doug Crosson and brother of Thomas Crosson.

Congratulations to Anna Carroll and Pearson Brown, who were married on May 14, 2022, in John's Creek, GA. Pearson is the son of Beth and Bob Brown and brother of Keaton Brown.

Congratulations to Betsy Peterson and John Sanford, who were married at St. Paul's on May 21, 2022. John is the son of Kyttie and Bentley Sanford and the brother of Kate and Rob Sanford. **Deaths.**

Deepest sympathy to Karen Briscoe on the death of her sister, Sandra Watts, who died on May 24, 2022.

Deepest sympathy to Linda and Jeff Klemm on the death of Jeff's sister, Linda Buttram, who died on May 30, 2022, in Las Cruces, NM.

Flowers.

The flowers at the altar on May 1, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in thanksgiving and honor of Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan for her service and dedication to St. Paul's from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

The flowers at the altar on May 8,

Who to Contact for What

To reach any staff, call 713-528-0527 or email *info@stpaulshouston*. *org*, and your message will be forwarded. For these specific situations, you may wish to contact these people through these means:

To notify the church of births, deaths, or hospitalizations, please contact Sarah Patlan via 713-528-0527 or *spatlan@stpaulshouston.* org.

To schedule baptisms or altar flowers, contact Dawn Uebelhart via 713-528-0527 or *dawn@stpauls houston.org*.

To schedule a funeral, contact Rev. Andrew Wolfe via 713-528-0527 or awolfe@stpaulshouston.org and see www.stpaulshouston.org/funerals.

To schedule a wedding at St. Paul's, email Betty Rennell via bettyrennell@gmail.com and see www.stpaulshouston.org/weddings

2022, were placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Sheryl Kirkland by her family on this Mother's Day.

The flowers at the altar on May 15, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in celebration of the May 14, 2022, wedding of Cassidy Daniels and Kevin Jackson.

The flowers at the altar on May 22, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in celebration of the May 21, 2022, wedding of Betsy Peterson and John Sanford.

The flowers on the altar on May 29, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in celebration of the 20th wedding anniversary of Heather and Chris Powers.

The flowers in the Narthex on May 29, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in thanksgiving and honor of Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan for his service and dedication to St. Paul's from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Transitions

As our programs grow, the staff responsibilities are transitioning to fill those needs. Individuals now responsible for areas previously directed by Helen Spaw are **Rev. Nataly Negrete** - Green Team and Community Garden (separate, though related ministries); email: nataly@stpaulshouston.org and **Rev. Kate Flint** - Special Needs (all ages); email: kflint@stpaulshouston.org. Both continue to be responsible for ministries previously under their jurisdiction.

As the Associate Director of Adult Faith Formation, Helen is responsible for Adult Faith Formation programs, including The Art Tent, Labyrinth, and Healing Circles. She is also responsible for the Fine Arts Academy.

Donna V. Adair to Retire July 10

In 1985 Donna V. Adair began editing St. Paul's edition of the now-defunct *United Methodist Reporter (UMR)* as a volunteer substitute for the ailing editor Bass Pyburn. That volunteer position morphed into her becoming the church's first full-time Director of Communications, though the newsletter has always been the core of her work.

The newsletter also morphed over those years — from one page within the full-sized *UMR* newspaper published in Dallas dedicated to news of the United Methodist Church throughout the world to an internally published weekly to this now monthly newsletter, all augmented since 2010 by a weekly e-letter, the *Chimes*.

As communications channels have proliferated, St. Paul's communications efforts are further augmented today by others through several forms of media.

Her own responsibilities beyond that "core" newsletter also have changed over the years, many directed by her desire expand into the community with publicity plus relationships that brought people into St. Paul's in ways not normally associated with church, such as participating in Museum District Days; hosting authors such as Anne Lamott and Colson Whitehead in conjunction with Brazos Bookstore; and, upon learning that near-endangered chimney swifts nest in St. Paul's chimney as they migrate through Houston, partnering with the Audubon Society to host Swift Nights Out.

Since April 2017 she also has worked with Norman Mahan to produce a compilation of the week's Lectionary lessons illuminated by art, posting it to the church's website calendar with that Sunday's service information. This she will continue as long as Norman is amenable. And, after COVID-postponed visits with her daughters in El Paso and Perth, she will upload and organize the many pictures of St. Paul's activities she has taken over the years, making them more easily accessible by others.

A celebration of her work will be held on Sunday, July 10, at 12:15 pm. To give a love offering, place your gift in the designated receptable at the reception or go to www.stpauls houston.org/give.

Primetimers:
Update on
The United
Methodist
Church
by Rev. Dr. Jeff
McDonald

Thursday, June 9 | 11 am | Activity Center
TO RSVP, EMAIL PRIMETIMERS@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG BY JUNE 7

Policy decisions affecting The United Methodist Church are made during the quadrennial meeting of the denomination, and steps emerging from or leading up to those decisions are made during the annual meeting of the conferences worldwide.

After decades of intensifying debate and defiance of church bans on same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy, it was anticipated that the 2024 General Conference — postponed from 2020 due to COVID — would face multiple proposals for denominational separation. The May 1, 2022, launch of the theologically conservative Global Methodist Church has affected that scenario.

Fresh from the annual meeting of the Texas Annual

Conference (May 30-June 1), on June 9 St. Paul's Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald will present to the Primetimers an update on the current situation within The United Methodist Church, particularly as it affects St. Paul's.

Dr. McDonald also will present a Texas Annual Conference Recap to the Living Faith Sunday School class on Sunday, June 5, at 9:45 am in J-220. All are invited.

The meeting begins at 11 am in the Activity Center (aka Gymnasium) on the second floor of the Sanctuary Building, and it is open to all. To remain for the \$10 lunch, please RSVP by Tuesday, June 7, to primetimers@stpaulshouston.org or call 713-528-0527.



Rutabaga After-School Program Completes First Year Back in Person

After being interrupted by COVID, the Rutabaga After-School Program returned in the fall of 2021 to Abraham Station with a new director — Anna Anderson. The program provides afterschool enrichment for children from nearby MacGregor and Poe elementary schools.

On May 24 the Fe y Esperanza community, which includes many of the children in this program, gave a surprise party to celebrate the children's end of year and in appreciation of the Rutabaga leadership.

Earlier in the month, representatives of the Houston Mounted Patrol visited the children.



Juneteenth Ally Awards Luncheon Here June 18

The Center for the Healing of Racism's Annual Juneteenth Ally Awards will be presented at a barbecue lunch in Fondren Hall at noon Saturday, June 18. This year's honorees are

The Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land for fulfilling the promise to honor the individuals impacted by convict leasing and for educating the community about contributions of African-Americans in Fort Bend County.

Eldrewey Stearns for foundational work leading to sit-ins and demonstrations to desegregate Houston.

American Indian Center of Houston for enhancing cultural awareness of the

Distribute Food

Help distribute food at Boynton Chapel UMC, 2812 Milby, with the Ordinary Life Women. Saturday, June 11, from 8:30 am to noon. For more information or to help, contact Frieda Hale via *frieda319@gmail.com*

Native American Community in greater Houston and surrounding areas.

The Seven Lakes High School Chapter of Voters of Tomorrow for its work on the distribution of banned books to students in Katy ISD.

To purchase tickets or help sponsor this event, please go to www.center-healingracism.org.

Since 1989, the Center has been facilitating the healing of racism through education and dialogue in a safe and supportive environment in order to empower individuals and transform communities. St. Paul's Helen Spaw regularly conducts healing circles in conjunction with the Center.

Move Sofa

Tuesday, June 7, at 12:30 pm. Our partners at The Restoration Team need two or three volunteers to help move a sofa to a client who has no furniture. The destination address is in the 77028 zip code. To help, email <code>kat@stpauls houston.org</code>.

Refugee Support

Afghan Refugees. St. Paul's is sponsoring an Afghan refugee family here in Houston. Thanks to those who have furnished an apartment for the family.

To learn how you can become involved with the Afghan Refugee program, contact Rev. Nataly Negrete via nataly@stspaulshouston.org

Ukrainian Refugees. To provide humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian refugees through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), please go to www.umcmission.org and select Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery.

Checks to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" on the memo line may be mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068

The refugees are given food and offered opportunities for conversation and counseling. One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.

St. Paul's Among Thousands at Interfaith Rally

In the wake of the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, St. Paul's people joined with the Moms Demand Action and many other groups at Discovery Green to rally across the street from the National Rifle Association's Annual Meeting occurring in the George R. Brown Convention Center.

As noted in the letter from St. Paul's pastors in the May 29 *Chimes* e-letter: "Our United Methodist Social Principles call us to advocate for local and national laws that would prevent and reduce gun violence; this would include measures such as universal background checks. We are also encouraged to be a part of ecumenical and interfaith partners for gatherings and rallies to bring awareness to issues surrounding gun violence."

The gathering at St. Paul's began with the tolling of a change-ringing bell commemorating the death of each of the Uvalde victims.



SEARCH Coming Home Graduation June 28

Graduation from the fourth series of SEARCH Homeless Services' Coming Home program held at St. Paul's will be Monday, June 28, at 5 pm in Fondren Hall.

This 24-week program for people transitioning from homelessness includes family-style dinners followed by mentoring. To learn more about this program and how you can be involved, please email *nataly@stpaulshouston.org* or *mfmcalevy@gmail.com*.



Dads with their young children are invited to the next *Dadurday*, which will be in Old Braeswood Park (pictured above) on Saturday, June 18, at 10 am. The small trangular-shaped neighborhood park at 2300 Kelving is bounded by Maroneal and Morningside. For more information, email *awolfe@stpaulshouston.org*.



Full Summer Ahead for St. Paul's Youth

After two summers of activities curtailed by COVID, St. Paul's Youth have a full summer ahead, including some new opportunities. Check the schedule below, listed in chronological order, and see where you can participate — as a Youth, college student, or an adult supervisor or helper. For more information, contact Director of Youth Ministries Tiffin Wilsford via tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or Associate Director of Youth Ministries Julianna Reeves via jreeves@stpaulshouston.org or, if music related, Associate Music Director and Organist Joel Trekell via jtrekell@staulshouston.org.

Mission Trip Training

Sunday, June 5, from 5 to 7 pm. For everyone attending one of the Youth mission trips this summer — youth, college students, and aduls. More adult supervisors are needed for U.M.ARMY and JUMMP, full week or partial.

U.M. ARMY



June 12-18. Mission trip to Gulfport, MS, for high school youth. Adult supervisors needed, full week or partial. Also helpful: United Airline miles for those attending partial week. College students welcome. The team will be commissioned at the 8:30 am worship service on June 12.

RS M AMERICA

Royal School of Church Music Gulf Coast Course

June 13-19. For girls ages 10-18. Several St. Paul's Treble Choir members will attend this course, now based at Houston's Church of St. John the Divine.

Additional Youth Summer Activities

In addition to the week-long events listed above, these opportunities will be available on the dates indicated throughout the summer. They are open to all St. Paul's Youth and their friends who have completed the sixth through the 12th grades:

- **Sunday School.** Sunday mornings at 9:45 am in the Youth Center.
- Sunday Lunch Brunch. Sundays: June 5 and 19, July 10 and 31. Attend 11 am service together, then go to lunch as as group.
- Midweek Get-Togethers. Wednesdays: June 8 and 22, July 6 and 27. 5:30 to 8 pm. Evenings begin with Selah in the chapel followed by discussion groups, a light meal, and recreation.
- Friday Fun/Service Days. Fridays: June 10 and 24, July 8 and 29, from 9 am to 4 pm. Meet at church for a service project, lunch, and something fun.

Youth will not meet on Sunday evenings this summer.

JUMMP



June 26-July 1. Mission trip to Lufkin for middle school/junior high Youth. Adult supervisors needed, full week or partial. The team will be commissioned at the 11 am worship service on June 26.

S.P.Y. Academy

July 11-17. New this year! An intentional, spiritual community created with youth who have completed grades 8-12. Youth will grow deeper in their understanding of the Bible and the United Methodist Church, learn how to plan and lead worship services, and help discern their calling. (S.P.Y. = St. Paul's Youth). \$20/day for program outings and meals.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) and Youth Week

August 1-5. Youth help with VBS in the morning, then go on Youth outing in the afternoon. \$25/day for afternoon activities.

Optional Afternoon Sports Camp for Children after Music Camp and VBS

An optional Sports Camp is available after both Music Camp (See page 6) and Vacation Bible School (VBS). Operated by Armored Sports, a Christ-centered sports camp for children, these are multi-sport camps that will include playground games such as dodge ball and capture the flag plus games that revolve around classic sports such as basketball.

After music camp or VBS, children will be escorted to sports camp and the Armored staff will have lunch with them. After lunch, everyone will transition into Sports Camp mode until 4 pm pick up.

Armored Sports Camp t-shirts distributed the Monday of the camp are to be worn daily, and children are to bring to camp each day a backpack, sack lunch plus a snack (no tree-nut/peanut products), and a water bottle. Masks are optional unless required by St. Paul's COVID protocols in effect at the time.

Cost is \$115/child/week. To register, please go to www. armored-sports.com/camps/stpaulsumc.

Children's Summer at St. Paul's

After no Vacation Bible School in 2020 and a trimmed-down version in 2021, this year's Vacation Bible School is back to normal, though a virtual option also will be offered. And, St. Paul's is offering a children's music camp for the first time in several years.

VBS 2022: Knights of North Castle

Armor up with God this summer as the Vacation Bible School (VBS) *Knights of North Castle* explore the power



God gives us to demonstrate Truth, Justice, Peace, Faith, and Salvation.

Monday-Friday, August 1-5, from 9 am to 12:15 pm for children from age 4 years through 5th grade (as of 9/1/21). Younger children of volunteers also may attend.

Through timeless Bible stories and the excitement of the quest theme, this summer's VBS invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God.

Register online through www.stpaulshouston.org/vbs. Please be sure to use the correct form for your situation:

- Child participants, including virtual
- · Adult volunteers
- Youth volunteers
- Volunteers' children under age 4.

For more information,

contact Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org.





A morning music camp for children entering grades 1-6, *Pipe Up & Sing*, will feature singing and learning about pipe instruments (and any instruments remotely tubular!) with movement and engineering activities.

The June 20-24 camp will include crafts and snacks, and several instruments will be showcased — organ, didgeridoo, rain stick, flute, piccolo, and more.

Adult and youth volunteers are welcome; no musical experience required. People who play an instrument (trumpet, tuba, clarinet, Alpenhorn, bagpipes, saxophone, oboe, French horn, trombone, etc.) are invited to come and play their instrument for the campers (can be as short as a 15 minute commitment one day of camp).

Camp fee is \$100 for in-person campers; \$55 for campers attending online. (\$10 discount if registered by June 3.) Sibling discounts and scholarships are available upon request. Childcare is available for volunteers with children too young to attend camp.

Register via www.stpaulshouston.org/events/sing
For more information or to volunteer, contact Susie
Vanlandingham, Director of Children's Music, via susie@
stpaulshouston.org

Joyful Noise. This music assembly for children from age 3 to 2nd grade continues through the summer at 9:45 am Sundays in the Jones Building and via Zoom.

Other Children's News Pentecost Popsicle Party!

Celebrate a Spirit-filled year of Sunday School! Immediately after the 11 am service on June 5, all children are invited to enjoy popsicles and fellowship on the Plaza. Let your teachers know how much you appreciate them as we finish out the school year and gear up for Summer.

Summer Schedule, Teachers

Same times, same places:

- 8 am-12:15 am. Nursery
- 9:45-10:45 am. Sunday School (virtual option for 3rd-5th graders)
- 11 am-noon. Children's Church (Bible story and playtime)
- Children may start in worship, then come forward during sequence hymn to be escorted from 8:30 am service to childcare or from 11 am service to Children's Church. Children's bulletins are available for children to use during worship or take with them.

Can you volunteer in Sunday School this summer? To learn more, contact Rev. Kate Flint via *kflint@stpaulshous ton.org*.

Masking Policy Update

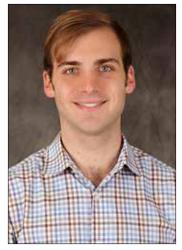
Children's Ministry has adopted a Masks Welcome policy for children, teachers, and parents in all Children's Ministry activities. Based on community spread, this could change. Please continue to respect the health and safety of our children and teachers.

Looking Ahead



Celebrate the American Independence Day holiday with marches by John Philip Sousa, Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, American hymn settings by Leo Sowerby, and some lesser-known gems for organ.

Welcome Rev. Trey Burns



On July 1 we will welcome Rev. Trey Burns as Pastor for Discipleship. A 2017 graduate of Perkins School of Theology, SMU, he currently is pastor of Whitehouse UMC in Whitehouse, TX. He previously was the associate pastor at Faith UMC in Spring.

He grew up in Bellaire, attending Bellaire UMC with his family. At Rice University where he studied history and psychology, he participated in the Wesley Foundation ministry led by Rev. Emily Chapman when she was an associate pastor at St. Paul's.

Save the Date October 26

Kate Bowler: New York
Times best selling author,
Duke professor, and
"incurable optimist."
For more about her, and
her work please see
www.katebowler.com

Serve on a Disaster Recovery Team

Join our Team to Help our NEIGHBORS. NO SKILLS NEEDED: TRAINING PROVIDED.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT REV. NATALY AT NATALY@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG

This fall, the first-Saturday workdays with The Restoration Team (TRT) will resume under the leadership of Rev. Nataly Negrete, who now is pastor for Missions as well as Fe y Esperanza. (nataly@stpaulshouston.org)

St. Paul's is a founding member of this group of 20 congregations that was organized in the wake of Hurricane Harvey and has continued to restore homes affected by Harvey, Imelda, and winter storm Uri. In 2021 alone, St. Paul's provided more than 1,700 volunteer hours.

Experience is not necessary; leaders are on site to help you make a difference. Watch for updates in the *Chimes*, and to be on a dedicated mailing list for Restoration Team notifications, email *kat@stpaulshouston.org*.

Choral Scholars to Lead Worship during St. Paul's Choir's Residency in England

While the St. Paul's Choir is in residence at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall from July 25 to 31 and leading Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on Monday, August 1, the music at St. Paul's Houston will be led by a choir comprised of St. Paul's Choral Scholars, current and former.

An auditioned ensemble of advanced, auditioned

Blood Drive
Sunday, July 17
9 am to 1:30 pm
Schedule your donation through www.com
mitforlife.org/donor/
schedules/geo

high-school-age vocalists directed by Matthew Perez, the Choral Scholars periodically lead in worship services during the school year. This opportunity to lead worship during the summer also provides a time when alumni can to re-join the choir for a Sunday or two.

Many of the alumni have gone on to major in vocal music and are singing professionally. Among them are Matthew Mazzola, who has been with Chanticleer for five seasons, and Vineel Mahal, who has just joined this 12-member Grammy-Award-winning vocal ensemble based in San Francisco. (www.chanticleer.org)

Aging Solo

The key to aging well is planning the aging journey, and Amazing Place offers a free, four-week, two hours per week program — *Aging Solo* — to help make that plan. Topics include getting documents in order, defining a support network, and determining the next steps.

This will be offered at St. Paul's on Tuesdays, August 25 to September 8, from 10 am to noon.

For more information, please contact Mehrnaz Gill, MSG at mgill@amazing-placehouston.org.

To register, please go to www.amazingplacehouston. org/community-education/aging-solo.