

5501 Main at Binz/Bissonnet • Houston, TX 77004
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Pastor's Message

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

— Acts 13:52

When I went to Stephen Ministry



Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald
Senior Pastor

training, we were taught that compassion is the ability to suffer with the hurt of another; it is one of the essential qualities of being a Christian.

Equally important is the capacity to rejoice in the happiness of another. Intense gladness is anchored in the joy that Jesus Christ lives, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, he lives in each one of us. Every tear has been wiped away. There is no more mourning or sadness in the life of the risen Christ.

In the early Church, each Sunday was known as the feast of "little Easter." For you and I our joy and optimism are rooted in this belief. Jesus gives us a new commandment, to love one another: "Love one another as I have loved you." Love then becomes the key to everything. Living and loving are one.

I'm thankful that we were able to Confirm the Class of 2020, and May is a busy month with Confirmation for the Class of 2021, Mother's Day, and a celebration of our high school seniors. At the end of the month there is Annual Conference. Please keep all our lay and clergy delegates in your prayers. This will also be an exciting year as Rev. Kate Flint will be ordained a Deacon.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald
Senior Pastor



Regathering Update

EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, MAY 23

There are upcoming changes to our Sunday Worship opportunities, regathering guidelines, and community life.

For more information & details visit:

www.stpaulshouston.org/regathering

Changes are coming to our Sunday morning worship opportunities, re-gathering guidelines, and community life starting Sunday, May 23 — the *Feast of Pentecost*.

The Re-gathering Task Force and Church Council agree that the St. Paul's community can begin having masked and distanced gatherings indoors at the end of May. Each gathering, small group, and ministry area will discern the right meeting option for its group — online, hybrid, outdoors, or indoors. Mindful of our call to inclusion, St. Paul's will continue to support each option as we are able. Some areas of our community life may remain online long-term while others will move to indoor or hybrid gatherings over the coming months.

Worship will move to the Sanctuary at 11 am, starting May 23. RSVP still will be required via Eventbrite or a call the church office: 713-528-0527. Online worship streaming remains at 8:30 and 9:45 am, with 11:05 moving to 11 am.

For more details and information about other changes, please visit www.stpaulshouston.org/regathering or call 713-528-0527.



St. Paul's graduating high school seniors will be recognized during the worship services of May 16, both on-line and in-person. Those also will be the last services to be led by the 2020-21 Choral Scholars. The Choral Scholars annual end-of-year concert will be streamed that afternoon at 4 with works by Ernani Aguiar, Volckmar Leising, George Malcolm, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Michael John Trotta. Watch the concert via www.stpaulshouston.org/stream. After the concert is over, it will be posted to St. Paul's YouTube channel for viewing at any time afterwards.



PRIMETIMERS *Laos Mission*

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald shares his experiences of amazing ministry with the United Methodist team to landlocked Laos in Southeast Asia.

Thursday, May 13 | 11:00 am to Noon via Zoom

TO CONNECT CONTACT PRIMETIMERS@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG BY MAY 11

Every conference in the United Methodist Church has a bishop to serve as a leader. Larger conferences share bishops with those that are too small or too new to have their own bishops. The Texas Annual Conference shares Bishop Scott J. Jones with the provisional Annual Conference of Laos.

Sandwiched between Thailand and Viet Nam, Laos is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia. The Laotian pastors and communities face restrictions of religious practices plus poverty and low levels of education. Despite these adversities, the Methodist church currently has 65 churches in Laos, and this number continues to grow.

St. Paul's Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald is part of a team that has been traveling to Laos annually to train and credential new pastors as well as build relationships between the Texas Annual Conference and the Lao Samphan Methodist Church.

Join with him at the May 13 Primetimes meeting as he shares the amazing ministry that is happening in Laos.

Meet Thursday, May 13, at 11 am via Zoom. To connect, email primetimers@stpaulshouston.org by Tuesday, May 11.



Symbolizing the strength of coming together, Earth Day celebrants place individual twigs into art installation by Ibraim Santos on St. Paul's front lawn. The upward swoop further indicates the hope and joy of coming together, especially after isolation.

Disaster Recovery Team in Action



The Disaster Recovery Team is usually in action the first Saturday of every month. Some post-Harvey work is ongoing, and new work is needed for those affected by the freeze.

To be part of a team, sign up via the Sign-up Genius at www.stpaulshouston.org/recovery. No experience needed; we will show you what to do.

For more information about the Disaster Recovery Team and its work or to be added to a notification list for these projects, email kat@stpaulshouston.org.



Dinner for out-of-town relief workers

As we continue to support people impacted by Houston's weather, we also can support relief workers who have come from other parts of the country to help. If you or a small group would like to provide dinner for eight of these out-of-town helpers any time between now and June 4, please contact Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan via prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org for details.

Green Team, Community Garden

Create, implement, and support environmental stewardship practices at St. Paul's with the Green Team. The team meets fourth Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:15 am via Zoom.

You also can helping maintain the community garden, host the garden table Sunday mornings, and/or harvest produce for the table.



For information or to connect email hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

These members of the 2019-2020 Confirmation class were confirmed on April 3, 2021 (See picture at right): Rachel Jane Anderson, Julia Bonnell Beech, Lucia Kristina Flores, Paul William Gau, Jacob Paul Gunn, Noah Phillip Gunn, Keira Lyndsey Heath, Lucille Jacqueline Holt, Elizabeth Louise Jost, Reid Edward Kurtas, William Griffith Lane, Madeline Elise Malina, Sophie Katherine Marcello, Emma Christine Mudd, Georgia Ellen Mustachio, William Schuyler Muratta Plante, Ella Joyce Taylor, Sarah Grace Vanlandingham, Corbin James Wanner, Sophia Marie Jie-Ling Watson, Mark Joseph Wheeler, Adam Brown Wilson, and Charlotte Elisabeth Witz.



— Photograph by Sandy Bankston

These confirmands from the class of 2019-2020 also were baptized on April 3, 2021: Lucia Kristina Flores, Emma Christine Mudd, and Ella Joyce Taylor.

The class of 2020-21 will be confirmed on May 2, 2020, at 5 pm on the Plaza.

Who to Contact for What

To reach any staff, call 712-528-0527 or email info@stpaulshouston.org, and your message will be forwarded.

To inquire about joining St. Paul's or update membership records, contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org.

To schedule a funeral or notify the church of births, deaths, hospitalizations, or other concerns, also contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org.

To schedule a baptism or order altar flowers, contact Dawn Uebelhart via dawn@stpaulshouston.org.

To schedule a wedding, contact Betty Rennell via bettyrennell@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Family

New Members.

Welcome these members who joined St. Paul's Family on April 11, 2021: Mary and Michael Addison with their son, Oliver.

Baptisms.

Katherine and James Principe presented their daughter, Margaret Stella Principe, born June 22, 2020, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the outdoor worship service of April 11, 2021.

Sarah and Andrew Gibson presented their daughter, Margot Isabelle Gibson, born July 10, 2019, for the Sacrament of Holy

Baptism on April 18, 2021.

She was presented to the congregation during the April 25 online worship services.

Deaths.

Deepest sympathy to Jane and Al Thiel and Dena Stockman on the death of Jane's mother, Dena's grandmother, Loweader (Lou) Adline Kemp Ashby Perry, who died on Monday, April 5, 2021.

Deepest sympathy to Lydia and Don Smyth, on the death of Don's father, A.O. Smyth, who died on April 16, 2021, at the age of 101 in Lufkin.

Deepest sympathy to Sharon and Mac MacLaren, Cassie and Camille, on the death of Mac's mother, Trudy MacLaren, who died April 21, 2021, in Wisconsin.

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Walter Saunders, Jr., who died on April 25, 2021.

To receive the *Chimes* weekly e-letter, please e-mail dadair@stpaulshouston.org

St. Paul's Blankets Provide Assistance

St. Paul's navy-and-green plaid blankets have a water-resistant layer of PVC backing, perfect for use as ground covers or picnic blankets — and they come with a Velcro attachment, handle, and side pocket.

Proceeds from these \$25 blankets assist the St. Paul's Fe y Esperanza community with rent, utilities, and groceries. This community has been hit especially hard over the last year with COVID-related job losses and health issues.

To purchase either blanket, please contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org

SEARCH Coming Home Graduation

The latest class of the SEARCH's 24-week Coming Home Restorative Community program graduated on March 26, 2021, when group facilitator, Bill Taube, at left, presented certifications of completion to the nine graduates. A "Wall of Support" captured images of the program's mentors and other supporters who attended virtually.



Piloted at St. Paul's in the Spring of 2018, Coming Home creates a safe space to build community among congregations and the formerly homeless participants by offering friendship and support through a shared meal.

The cornerstone of the program, this weekly shared meal generates a sense of belonging that fosters caring relationships and promotes healing.

During COVID, the program moved to SEARCH offices, and St. Paul's members continued to participate in ways possible, including providing meals.

It is anticipated that in January 2022, St. Paul's will be able to host again.

To learn more about this program, see www.stpaulshouston.org/serve, and scroll down to the SEARCH section or contact Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan via prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org.



CORNERSTONE society

OF ST. PAUL'S FOUNDATION

The Cornerstone Society is happy to welcome the following members:

Fredrica and William (Bill) Fester

The Cornerstone Society is an annual giving society of the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation. Its members contribute to the support of the St. Paul's campus and social justice causes chosen by the society's members.

Membership is open to all members, guests, and friends of St. Paul's. For more information, please visit www.stpaulshouston.org/st-pauls-foundation or contact Mary Linda Portner via mlportner@stpaulshouston.org.

Please look for news on the Cornerstone grant process in the June issue of *St. Paul's Monthly*.

Healing Circles, Ongoing, Changing

The idea behind Healing Circles is that humans heal in community. The earliest humans gathered around a campfire and shared stories. Healing Circles bring this healing community back into our lives with a format that allows us to explore our healing and experience our wholeness.



At St. Paul's, Helen Spaw conducts healing circles on a variety of topics, some are ongoing with entry at any time, some are short-term with a self-contained group.

The Single Moms Circle is ongoing with entry at any time, meeting the second and fourth Tuesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 pm via Zoom. In June, this group will switch to the second Tuesday, remaining at 8:30 to 9:30 pm.



Also ongoing is a Circle for the Healing of Racism, conducted with the Center for the Healing of Racism. It meets the second Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 am via Zoom.

To connect with either of these circles, email hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

Veterans Healing Circle

Following the healing circle model, St. Paul's also hosts a gathering of veterans each Wednesday from noon to 1:30 pm in the Fannin Street Courtyard with social distancing and required mask wearing.

Prior to each veterans gathering, those planning to attend must contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org.



Foundation Grants

The grant funding cycle for St. Paul's Methodist Foundation is open. The Foundation seeks grant applications from organizations and ministries that support the needs of children, youth, adults, and senior adults in the Houston area, in our nation, and throughout the world.

Special attention is given to those agencies that are connected to St. Paul's United Methodist Church and its members and that support those in need and at risk.

Proposals from qualified agencies may be submitted up to May 14, 2021.

The application may be accessed at www.stpaulshouston.org/foundation-grants.

Questions? Please contact Mary Linda Portner at foundation@stpaulshouston.org.

Amazing Place Program Update

Amazing Place provides a variety of programs to empower lives disrupted by dementia, including family members and other caregivers.

The in-person Day Program for mild to moderate dementia successfully re-opened on April 15, and the Virtual Activity Program for the same population remains available via Zoom Monday through Friday from 10 am to noon and 1 to 3 pm. For more about either type of programming, contact Day Program Director Carol Cooper via ccooper@amazingplacehouston.org or 713-660-1375.

Amazing Place also provides specific opportunities for family caregivers. These fall within the four categories of

- **Caregiver Education.** *Savvy Caregiver* — six-week, three-week express, and four-week advanced courses. Information: scantrell@amazingplacehouston.org.
- **Caregiver Support Groups.** First Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Information: kchristie@amazingplacehouston.org.
- **Caregiver Counseling.** Information: aschollaert@amazingplacehouston.org.
- **Caregiver Resources and Consultation.** Information: jthompson@amazingplacehouston.org

Amazing Place's community education offerings are

- **Brain Health Presentations.** Several offerings including *Living in the Sandwich Generation*, *How the Arts Are Good for the Brain*, and *Pillars to Good Cognitive Health*. Information: mgill@amazingplacehouston.org.
- **Memory Enhancement Training.** *Tips and Tricks for the Brain*. Information: sdavis@amazingplacehouston.org.
- **Dementia Training for Home Healthcare Providers.** Information: mgill@amazingplacehouston.org.
- **Aging Solo.** Information: kchristie@amazingplacehouston.org.

Three New Bible Studies Begin in May

After a year of being uprooted, we are grounding ourselves in scripture. Find new community and new perspectives in any of the three new Bible studies beginning this May, all on Zoom. Explore the Old Testament with Disciple Bible Study, dive into the Gospel of John with Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles, or take a closer look at the Sermon on the Mount with Dr. Amy Jill Levine.

Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven Sundays, May 1-June 6, from 9:45 to 11am on Zoom



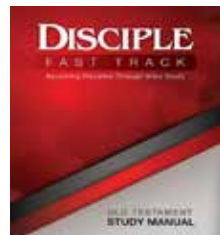
In this six-week study, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today. To connect, email Mary Linda Portner via mlportner@stpaulshouston.org.

Reading John for Dear Life: A Spiritual Walk with the Fourth Gospel Wednesdays, May 5-June 9, from 1:30 to 3pm on Zoom



This six-week study based on a book by Rev. Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles provides important historical and literary insights while illuminating the dramatic characters in John and emphasizing the Gospel's unique themes and symbols. The study will be led by Rev. Barbara Robberson. To connect, email Beverly McMahan via bjcmcmah@swbell.net.

Disciple Fast-Track Bible Study: Old Testament Sundays, May 9-July 25, from 4 to 5:30 pm on Zoom



Designed for people with busy lives who desire to grow through Bible study, this 12-week fast-track study provides an overview of the Old Testament, laying the groundwork for future study. All levels of biblical familiarity are welcome. John Rodriguez will lead the class. To connect, go to www.stpaulshouston.org/adults or email faithformation@stpaulshouston.org.

Surviving through Thriving

The annual Youth Mental Health Art Showcase sponsored by the Mental Health Association - Houston highlights the importance of protecting youth mental health. Helen Spaw, who directs St. Paul's Fine Arts Academy and healing circles, encourages our children and Youth to enter.



Miles Reynolds won last year's Andy Warhol Award for Thinking Outside the Box with his "Turtle in Water," at left.

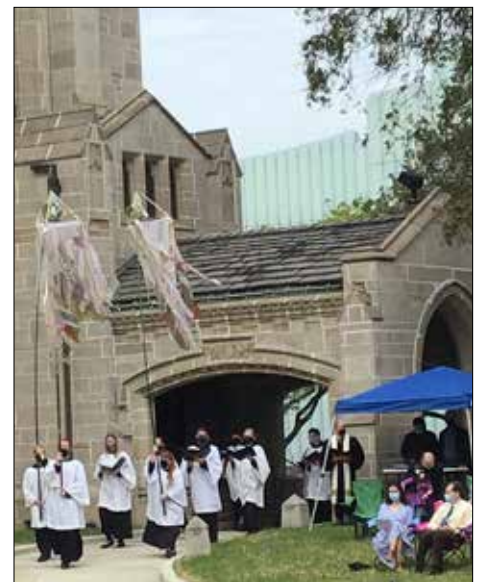
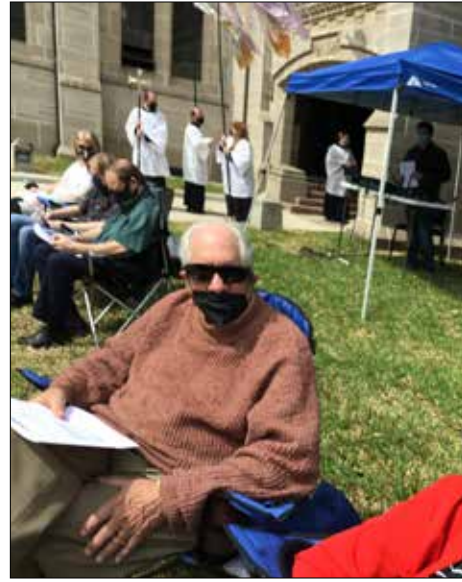
Many entries to this year's showcase, sub-themed "The World through My Eyes," reflect the effect of

COVID on the entrants' lives. See examples at right and more at www.mhahouston.org/programs/collaboration/art-showcase.

The winners of this year's showcase will be announced later in May through the web address above.



2021 EASTER WORSHIP OUTDOORS AT 8, 9:30, AND 11 AM • APRIL 4



2020-21 Class Confirmation: *May 2*

Members of the 2020-21 confirmation class will be confirmed in a service on the Plaza at 5 pm Sunday, May 2.

Names of the confirmands are Henry Michael Brenckmann, James Riley Brennan, Zoe Marie Clark, Mia Grace Cuellar, Katherine Sophia Doe, Andrew Hayes Garland, William Barrett Houck, Benjamin Highnote Johnston, Lydia Nicole Lane, Sladen Troy Ledford, Vivian Marie Misso, Alexis Teresa Ninan, Catherine Sarah Penfold, Ava Leigh Peterman, Miles J. Reynolds, William Igor Robins, Connor Maddigan Charles Roddick, and William Edward Saindon.

Volunteer confirmation leaders Danny Clark, Sharon and Mike Mosby, and Martin Stupel conducted this class in a hybrid of in-person, primarily on the Labyrinth, and over Zoom.

High School Seniors to Be Recognized in Morning Worship May 16

St. Paul's graduating high school seniors will be recognized during the worship services of May 16, both on-line and in-person. Those also will be the last services to be led by the 2020-21 Choral Scholars. The seniors' names follow.

Ainsley Alley, Jaden Anderson, Owen Anderson, Paul (Nick) Aruffo, Colin Beeton, Katy Brandman, Kaelin Everett, Lucas Fernandez, Joshua Garvin, Carter Glickman, Bridget Hallett, Ella Hough, Ransom Hulett, Michael Ibarra, Nicholas Kapusta, Oliver King, Christopher Knauth, Lucas Lynn, Dalton Machart, Ian Mattingly, Landon McKelvey, Erin Miller, Stephanie (Stevie) Neumann, Delia Pastore, Jacob Pudwill, Isaac Recio, Kirstin Roan, Ethan Robey, Christine Rong, Alexander Saggi, Samuel Saindon, Joseph Sanchez, John (Kevin) Schott, Myles Sealey, Grace Stupel, Meagan Sullivan, Link Summers-Perry, John Tansey, Asha Thekdi, Robert (Wil) Traband III, Sophia Trifilio, Madeline (Maddy) Vanlandingham, Lyndon Walsh, Jude Watt, and Tavon Wilsford.

YOUTH WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Modifications to the Youth weekly schedule will begin after the 2020-21 class is confirmed on May 2.

Questions? email tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or oksana@stpaulshouston.org.

Youth Banquet, Summer Activities

The annual Youth Banquet, honoring the graduating seniors and the 2020 and 2021 confirmands will be Sunday, May 23, at Goode Armadillo Palace. RSVP required to kat@stpaulshouston.org. At that time the details of the Youth's summer opportunities will be revealed.

If you miss the banquet and want to know about those opportunities or anything related to St. Paul's Youth, contact Tiffin Wilsford via tiffin@stpaulshouston.org.

Children's Ministries Opportunities Changing with Re-Gathering Plans

With the move to indoor worship on May 23, childcare also will be moving inside.

The schedule for children's Sunday School classes to transition to in-person will be determined at the May 2 Children's Council meeting. That decision will be communicated to families with children through the *St. Paul's Kids & Families* e-letter. For the near future, the virtual option will remain available.

For more information or to ensure receiving the *Kids & Families* e-letter, email Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Special Needs

The in-person Sunday School class for children with Special Needs will resume on May 23. For more information, email Helen Spaw via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

St. Paul's Moms

On May 10, St. Paul's Moms will complete the virtual discussion of "How our relationship with Scripture informs our love of God and our daily lives."

It will be determined at that gathering if the group will go on vacation for the summer.

To stay in touch, email kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Children's Choirs Celebration

The end-of-year celebration for the Wesley Singers, Choristers, and Treble Choir members will be on the Plaza on Saturday, May 1, from 11 to 11:30 am.

Crosses will be presented to 2nd graders, hymnals to 5th graders, and special gifts to high school seniors.

To attend, please RSVP to susie@stpaulshouston.org

CHILDREN'S WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Stay in touch via the St. Paul's Kids Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KidsOfSPUMC) and the *St. Paul's Kids & Families* e-letter. The e-letter usually is sent mid-week and on Sundays and includes printables related to the season and links to Sunday School classes and worship services.

To ensure receiving the e-letter and other connections, email kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Children's Sunday School: Age 3 through 5th grade meet on Zoom 9:45-10:45 am for Joyful Noise and GROW assemblies followed by age-level groups. The Children's Ministry e-letter has Zoom links.

See story at top, right, about anticipated changes to this schedule.

Childcare during Outdoor Worship. See story above.

Children's Choirs: Wesley Singers, Choristers, and Trebles break for the summer after the May 2 outdoor worship service.

Looking Ahead

Discovery on Adventure Island: Quest for God's Great Light

Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children age 5 to those who have completed the 5th grade is scheduled to be at the church from Monday, August 2, to Friday, August 6, from 9 am to noon. The theme will be "Discovery on Adventure Island: Quest for God's Great Light."

The opportunity to participate in a faith-based sports camp produced by Armored Sports will be provided after VBS until 4 pm. For more about Armored Sports, see www.armored-sports.com.



Before and after care arrangements are being determined. Registration and other information will be sent to families of children and provided in other church media.

Questions? Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Fine Arts Academy Summer Term

St. Paul's Fine Arts Academy is offering individual lessons in visual art, cello, piano, and voice this summer over Zoom and in person, starting May 31.

Visual art lessons are for people of all ages with special needs, Cello and piano lessons are for age six through adults, and voice lessons are for age eight through adults.



For more information, including the summer term brochure, class descriptions and instructor credentials, please see www.stpaulshouston.org/fine-arts-academy.

Registration is open now, and procedures are in the brochure.

Questions?

Fine Arts Academy Director, Helen Spaw via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

Rev. Flint to Be Ordained June 1

Rev. Kate Flint, Associate Pastor for Children's Ministry, will be ordained as a full deacon in a worship service on Tuesday, June 1, at 7 pm during the Texas Annual Conference.

Annual Conference will again be virtual. Guests and observers may view the Conference, including this service, on a YouTube link available at www.txcumc.org each



Picnic at Evelyn's Park benefiting the Emergency Aid Coalition

Thursday, June 3 • 6-9 pm

Music, picnic dinner, lawn games, and more!
\$100/ticket • underwriting opportunities available
www.eachouston.org

Telemedicine Clinic Update

Soon after St. Paul's Monthly Newsletter - April edition published that the telemedicine clinic would open in May, the start date was moved to August to better coincide with the school year.

This clinic is a partnership of St. Paul's, the UH College of Nursing, the UH College of Medicine, and the Emergency Aid Coalition. Questions? awolfe@stpaulshouston.org.

Vet TRIIP to Return in September

Vet TRIIP provides free services such as chiropractic, acupuncture, meditation, and breathing to military veterans. Current plans are for the group to return to St. Paul's in September at half capacity one Saturday a month.

For more information: nina@stpaulshouston.org.

Summer Music Opportunities for Children, Trebles

During the summer, children's choir members aged 10 and up are encouraged to participate in the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Gulf Coast summer course, which this year is part of a virtual national collaboration between Washington National Cathedral and Duke University. Among the seminar presenters is Elissa Edwards, who grew up at St. Paul's and is now affiliated with the National Cathedral. To view any of the services, please scroll down the schedule at www.rscmamerica.org/spiritstetherschedule

RSCM Gulf Coast is now housed at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church with Anna Teagarden, but St. Paul's is still an active member of RSCM America and will continue to support and participate in RSCM Gulf Coast events. For more information: rscmgulfcoast.org.

One-on-one voice lessons and the pursuit of medals through the RSCM Voice for Life curriculum will continue to be offered during the summer. For more information, email Interim Director of Children's Music Susie Vanlandingham via susie@stpaulshouston.org.