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Pastor's Message

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know their master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

— John 15:15

Recently I was reading from the 21st chapter of John's Gospel and thought about how Jesus called out, "*Friends, come and have breakfast.*" Breakfast on



the beach consisted of some fresh fish grilled by Jesus. When we might have expected some sort of grand meeting, the risen Christ was attentive to one of the basic needs of the

disciples – a morning meal. This man who was God himself, here on earth, called the disciples his friend.

A friend is someone who stays with you in the bad weather of life, guards you when you are off your guard, forgives your failures, does not forsake when others let you down, and shares whatever they have with you.

Brennan Manning writes, "The friendship of Jesus enables us to see others as he saw the apostles: flawed but good, wounded healers, children of the Father." How encouraging to know what it means to be a Christian friend. Thank you for being a friend.

I'm thankful for the Confirmation Class of 2022 and their new commitment as full members of St. Paul's UMC. May is a busy month with Mother's Day and a celebration of our high school seniors. We will share blessings with Karyn and Paul as they begin new chapters in their pastoral ministry in Portland and thankfulness for their time with us at St. Paul's. At the end of the month is Annual Conference; your prayers are appreciated for that gathering.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald, Senior Pastor



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON

SATURDAY, MAY 21 | 10 AM

DADURDAY

MAY LOCATION: LEVY PARK

A SOCIAL TIME FOR DADS
& THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN

RSVP WITH REV. ANDREW
AWOLFE@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG

St. Paul's Dads and their young children are invited to a fun, relaxed play time together at a local park or other fun spot for "Dadurday." This month in Levy Park, 3801 Eastside, Saturday, May 21, at 10 am. "Dadurday" will mix spending time with your kids and connecting with other dads from St. Paul's. For more information, contact Rev. Andrew via awolfe@stpaulshouston.org.

Good-bye to the Revs. Karyn and Paul Richards-Kuan as They Head to the Northwest

Begin the month of May with a good-bye to Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan, who has been appointed senior pastor at First United Methodist Church of Portland, Oregon (www.umcpdx.org), and end the month with a good-bye to Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan, who has been appointed pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, Cedar Mill, in Portland (www.cedarmill-christumc.org).



Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan

The celebration of her ministry as pastor for Faith Formation and Worship will be on Sunday, May 1, at 12:15 pm in Fondren Hall. She will preach at both worship services that day, and the combined Treble Choir and children's choirs will sing at the 11 am service.

The celebration of his ministry as pastor for Missions and previously the East End Missional Community will be on Sunday, May 29, at 12:15 pm in the Activity Center (Gymnasium). He will preach at both worship services that morning.

To give a love offering to either of them, please place your gift in the designated receptacle at the reception or go to www.stpaulshouston.org/give, press blue "Give" button, choose one-time donation, and write recipient's name on memo line.



Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan

As previously announced, Rev Nataly Negrete will be the Pastor for Missions in addition to the Fe y Esperanza community, and Rev. Trey Burns will be the Pastor for Discipleship.

3-session class
Sundays, starting May 15
at 12:15 pm in Room S-301

DISCOVER & CONNECT

Find connection and community at St. Paul's through discovering your spiritual gifts & talents.

Please RSVP to Sarah Patan
by Wednesday, May 11
spatlan@stpaulshouston.org



Discover and Connect is a three-part series for persons considering membership in St. Paul's. This class provides an opportunity to connect with our pastors and staff and learn what it means to be a deeply committed Christian at St. Paul's. The series begins Sunday, May 15, at 12:15 pm in S-301. Lunch will be provided.

RSVP by Wednesday, May 11 to Sarah Patlan at spatlan@stpaulshouston.org

St. Paul's Family

Member Wedding.

Congratulations to Joanna Schenke and Eren Akyar, who were "re-married" on April 9, 2022, near Charlottesville, VA. Married initially on April 9, 2021, with guests limited due to the pandemic, this 2022 occasion was a public declaration of their vows. Joanna is the daughter of Diane and Dick Schenke.

Birth.

Congratulations to Elisabet Cruz and David Echevarria on the birth of their son, Matthew, who was born on April 16, 2022.

Baptism.

Laura and David Morris presented their daughter, Emilia Jean Morris, born September 14, 2021, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on April 24, 2022. Maternal grandparents re Dawna and Tom Menges.

Flowers.

The flowers at the altar on April 3, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in loving memory of James E. Hopkins and Lena Martin Hopkins and Leverett Mayne Melton and Nona Mai Melton by Carolyn and Randy Hopkins.

The flowers in the Narthex on April

3, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Peggy Odam by the Caliendo and Walters families.

The flowers at the altar on April 10, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in honor of Leslie Wubbenhorst on her birthday by her family.

The flowers at the altar on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022, were placed to the glory of God by the St. Paul's Choir.

The flowers at the altar on April 24, 2022, were placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Bobbie and John E. Fellers by their grandchildren, Ainsley and Andrew Alley.

Deaths.

Deepest sympathy to Rev. Nataly Negrete, Mia and Ethan, on the death of Nataly's grandmother, Mia and Ethan's great grandmother, Rosa Negrete, who died on April 5, 2022, in Pasorapa, Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Deepest sympathy to Laura Flores and her family on the death of her sister, Yolanda Davis, who died in Little Rock, AR, on April 5, 2022

Deepest sympathy to Henry Rachford on the death of his wife, Sylvia Brown Rachford, who died on April 13, 2022.

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@stpaulshouston.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

St. Paul's facilities will be closed on Monday, May 30, in honor of Memorial Day.



Sarah Patlan has been named interim membership coordinator. She also is leading the greeters. She will be at St. Paul's part-time until moving to Atlanta to attend Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Contact her via spatlan@stpaulshouston.org or 713-352-0527.

Debra Fischer Retiring after 14 Years as St. Paul's School Director

On April 6, Debra Fischer announced that she would be retiring as Director of St. Paul's School, effective July 8.



During those 14 years she has successfully guided the school through an expansion to fill the new space provided by the Jones Building enlargement and the re-accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children — three times, the most recent during the COVID pandemic.

Congratulations also to the school's teachers for meeting the re-accreditation

credentials. In 1986, St. Paul's School was the first school in Houston and among the first schools in the country to be accredited. This accreditation, which remains valid until 2027, assures parents of high quality education and care.

In announcing her retirement, Fischer said, "As we are re-emerging (from COVID and the re-accreditation process), it seems like the perfect time to transition to new leadership."

CHORAL SCHOLARS

END-OF-YEAR CONCERT

Sunday, May 15 at 4:00 pm

Come hear soaring selections of folk songs, spirituals and original compositions.



RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONCERT.



Howard Hughes: The Man, the Legend

By popular demand, Michael Bludworth returns to talk with the Primetimers, this time in person.

A volunteer historian with The 1940 Air Terminal Museum, he spoke virtually last September about Houston's aviation history. On May 14 he will focus on the aviation career of Howard Hughes.



Michael Bludworth

As Bludworth describes this focus, "we'll be seeing more about the 'early' Hughes: his time at Rice, the accomplished airman, his great flights, his aircraft, Houston, his movies, and other highlights of his aviation career. We won't spend much time on his antics starting in the '50s."

The son of the inventor of the rotary drill bit (1909) that made his family wealthy, upon his parents' deaths in the early 1920s, Hughes took over the Hughes Tool Company, ultimately selling the then multi-billion dollar company in 1972.

Along the way he combined his own engineering aptitude with business acumen in a variety of industries, notably aviation and movies, in later years becoming reclusive.

Bludworth will fill us in on Hughes' aviation highlights, among them setting the record in July 1938 for around-the-world flight after which Houston honored him with a parade and re-named the Houston Municipal Airport in his name, a short-lived accolade.

Bludworth will speak with the Primetimers on Thursday, May 12, at 11 am in the Activity Center (second floor Sanctuary Building). The program is free and open to all. To remain for the \$10 lunch, RSVP by May 10 to primetimers@stpaulshouston.org or call 713-528-0527.

Coffee with the Pastors

Sunday, May 8 • 9:45 am

Jones Plaza or Jones Building Lobby

Enjoy this time to get to know our pastors and staff on an informal, one-to-one basis.

Caring for a
LOVED ONE WITH DEMENTIA?

Amazing Place is offering a **FREE 3-week Savvy Caregiver Express** for all caregivers and friends!

REGISTER TODAY!

SCAN THE CODE



OR CONTACT
Sharon Cantrell
scantrell@amazingplacehouston.org
713-440-8177

The Savvy Caregiver program will help you understand dementia, its effects on behavior, and how to develop personalized strategies for dementia caregiving and decision making.

- St. Paul's United Methodist Church
5501 Main St.
- Thursdays, May 5 - May 19
- 11:30am - 1:30pm



AmazingPlaceHouston.org
[@amazingplacehouston](https://www.facebook.com/amazingplacehouston)
[@amazingplace_houston](https://www.instagram.com/amazingplace_houston)



On Sunday, April 24, the St. Paul's Community celebrated the work of the Art Tent, which creates a space for people experiencing homelessness to express themselves through visual art. In addition to looking at sample art work, viewers had the opportunity to visit with participants, make their own art, and enjoy a sack lunch similar to that provided by the Emergency Aid Coalition with which the Art Tent is a cooperative endeavor. Due to heat safety concerns, the Art Tent will not function in its initial form from May through the summer. Alternate plans are being made for this period. For more information about the Art Tent and how to support this ministry, please see www.stpaulshouston.org/arttent or contact Helen Spaw via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org or 832-957-7081.

Afghan Refugee Family Provided with Apartment, Furnishings — and More

In conjunction with Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, St. Paul's is assisting an Afghan refugee family settle in Alief. Spearheaded by Patrick Luckingbeal with major efforts by the Ordinary Women and many others, a comprehensive list of furnishings and supplies — from beds and bedding to toothbrushes and toothpaste — was collected and moved into a 914-sq. ft. apartment.

The family consists of a mother, who served as an interpreter, and three children from ages 16 to 24, all of whom speak English. Thanks to Jeanne Martin and Leah Barton, pictures of this endeavor are below. To learn how you can help, contact Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan (prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org) through the end of May or Rev. Nataly Negrete (nataly@stpaulshouston.org) after that.



Palm Sunday

Easter Sunday



The Rutabaga After-School Program children celebrated Earth Day by releasing ladybugs into St. Paul's Community Garden and visiting the Houston Museum of Natural Science Butterfly Center.



Children's Summer Sundays

- 8 am-12:15 am. Nursery
- 9:45-10:45 am. Sunday School (in-person and Zoom)
- 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.

St. Paul's Moms

This group of mothers of all ages meets monthly for dinner and socializing. Next gathering: Hungry's in Rice Village on Monday, May 9, at 7 pm. All moms invited. To find out more, email Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org

Kids Nights Out (KNO)

May 13

Prehistoric Party

Take the summer off, and KNO will resume in the fall.

For more about KNO, including times, prices, and to RSVP, please see www.stpaulshouston.org/kids-night-out

YOUTH MAY BASIC SCHEDULE

As school year wanes, this schedule will be adjusted into and through the summer. Questions? email tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or jreeves@stpaulshouston.org

Sundays

- Sunday School for 6th-12th grades. 9:45 am.
- 6th-12th-grade UMY. 5-7 pm.

Mondays

Rainbows. 6:30-7:30 pm. For Youth in the LGBTQ+ community, questioning their identity/sexuality, or allies of the community.

Tuesdays

Girls Gathering. 6:30-8 pm.

Wednesdays

Mid-Week Get Together for all Youth. 3-7 pm.

Thursdays

Guys Gathering. 6:30-8pm.

Support our Confirmands as they become full members of St. Paul's and The United Methodist Church on Sunday May 1, at 5 pm in the Sanctuary. The members of this year's Confirmation class are 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. The teachers are Danny Clark, Sharon and Mike Mosby, and Martin Stupel. Tiffin Wilsford is Director of Youth Ministries, and Julianna Reeves is Associate Director of Youth Ministries.

Youth & Children Summer Schedule

June 13-19. Royal School of Church Music Gulf Coast Course for Girls, ages 10-18. Several St. Paul's Treble Choir members will attend. Questions? jtrekell@stpaulshouston.org

June 12-18. U.M. ARMY. Mission trip to Gulfport, MS, for youth who have completed grades 9-12. Register: www.umarmy.net/Registration/Indv/4004. Questions? tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or jreeves@stpaulshouston.org.

June 20-24.

• **Music Camp— Pipe Up & Sing!** 9 am-noon. Register: www.stpaulshouston.org/events/sing. Questions? susie@stpaulshouston.org.

• **Sports Camp.** Noon-4 pm. Register: www.armored-sports.com/camps/stpaulsumc, and scroll down to "register here" below the white box with the dates. Questions? kflint@stpaulshouston.org

June 26-July 1. JUMMP. Mission trip to Lufkin for youth who have completed grades 6-8. Register: www.umarmy.net/Registration/Indv/3989. Questions? tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or jreeves@stpaulshouston.org.

July 11-17. S.P.Y. Academy. 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). Questions? tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or jreeves@stpaulshouston.org.

August 1-5.

• **Vacation Bible School (VBS): Knights of the North Castle.** Morning. Attendees (live and virtual) and volunteers register here: www.stpaulshouston.org/vbs. Questions? kflint@stpaulshouston.org

• **Sports Camp.** Afternoon. Register: www.armored-sports.com/camps/stpaulsumc, and scroll down to "register here" below the white box with the dates. Questions: kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

• **Youth Week.** Youth serve as volunteers with VBS in the mornings, then go on afternoon outings. Questions? email tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or jreeves@stpaulshouston.org

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 | 6 PM

Annual Youth Banquet

AT PINSTRIPES

Honoring our graduating seniors, the 2022 Confirmation Class,
and the wonderful community of the Youth Group.

Limited seats available.
RSVP to Tiffin Wilsford.

VBS 2022: Knights of North Castle

Armor up with God this summer as the *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:

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

An optional after-care sports camp will be provided by Armored Sports. Registration for this also is on www.stpaulshouston.org/vbs.

Pipe Up & Sing!

All children who are entering the first through sixth grade are invited to experience the fun of music through hands-on learning science experiments, art projects, and lots of singing at *Pipe Up & Sing!*

This music camp will be from 9 am to noon June 20-24 with afternoon care available through Armored Sports.

Register here: www.stpaulshouston.org/events/sing. Questions: susie@stpaulshouston.org.



Sparky the Dragon invites all children to VBS.

Build New Choir for Boys

Building toward a Tenor/Bass Choir, Associate Director of Music & Organist Joel Trekell provides individual singing lessons for boys ages 10-17. In addition, a small group of boys rehearses with him on Sundays at 12:15 pm.

Following the Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life curriculum, the boys work on music suitable for changing voices.

One does not have to otherwise be affiliated with St. Paul's to participate. All young male voices are invited.

Questions? Joel Trekell via jtrekell@stpaulshouston.org.

Youth, Children's Music at St. Paul's

The Treble Choir is directed by Joel Trekell (jtrekell@stpaulshouston.org), and the children's choirs (Wesley Singers and Choristers) are directed by Susie Vanlandingham (susie@stpaulshouston.org).

Treble Choir

The 2021-22 year of weekly rehearsals for this choir of treble voices concludes on May 4, and the new year will resume in September. Several members will attend the Royal School of Music Gulf Coast Course (RSCM) from June 13 to 19.

Children's Choirs

The current term of weekly rehearsals for the *Wesley Singers*

(grades 1-2) and *Choristers* (grades 3-8) concluded with a workshop on April 30. Some of these vocalists ages 10 and up may attend an RSCM summer course.

Individual and small group singing lessons with Vanlandingham or Trekell are available throughout the year.

The Joyful Noise music assembly on Sundays at 9:45 am for children from age 3 to 2nd grade, also under Vanlandingham's directorship, is ongoing throughout the year. This children's worship time primarily focuses on learning and singing children's worship songs, laying the foundation for singing in a choir.

Looking Ahead



St. Paul's Choir in Residency in England this Summer — Truro and St. Paul's Cathedrals

St. Paul's Choir will be in residence at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall from July 25 to 31 and sing Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on Monday, August 1.

While in residence at Truro, choir members will sing for the daily services of Choral Evensong plus

a Choral Eucharist service on the Sunday morning.

Each of the choir's Evensong services here at St. Paul's, while being a beautiful service in itself, is also preparation for the services at Truro.

St. Paul's Choir has a long tradition of singing at English cathedrals,

beginning in 1987 with visits to York Minster, St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey. Since that time, the choir has returned to Westminster several times and sung at the cathedrals in Ely, St. Alban's, Southwark, and Exeter. St. Paul's Choir also has sung in Leipzig and Edinburgh.

Study Common Lectionary Lessons this Summer

Summer is a great a time to start a new practice, and St. Paul's offers three different groups with which to follow the practice of Bible study through the Common Lectionary .

A calendar and table of suggested scripture readings for a three-year cycle, the Common Lectionary provides a systematic approach to the use of Scripture in worship and study. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the Lectionary cycle follows the outline of the Christian year, celebrating the central mystery of our faith — the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

Here at St. Paul's, the Sunday worship services include the readings of that week's lessons, and the sermons usually are based on at least one of the lessons.

Readings Illuminated by Art.



Thumbnail of art for Pentecost Sunday's Lectionary

The texts for each week are provided on St. Paul's website and app plus the church's information racks. These are illuminated by art curated by Norman Mahan. On the website, these are included with the Sunday morning worship service information in the calendar, www.stpaulshouston.org/calendar. That service information also includes the sermon titles and music to be sung on that Sunday.

The Lectionary Study Groups

Anyone may meet with any of these groups, as designated, at any time.

- **Open to All.** Led by a pastor. Noon Tuesdays, currently in S-109 and via Zoom. To be added to the email list to receive

the lessons, Zoom link, and other relevant information, email hlpearson@aol.com.

- **Men Only.** Led by Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald. 7:30 am Wednesdays, currently in the Fellers Room (S-312) and via Zoom. To connect, email bharmes@gmail.com.

- **Women Only.** Led by Rev. Barbara Robberson. 8:30 am Thursdays, currently only via Zoom. To connect, email bjmcmah@swbell.net.

Welcome Rev. Trey Burns



On July 1 we welcome Rev. Trey Burns, who will be pastor for Discipleship. A 2017 graduate of Perkins School of Theology, SMU, he currently is pastor of Whitehouse UMC in Whitehouse, TX, and 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 ministry led by Rev. Emily Chapman when she was a St. Paul's associate.