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Pastor's Message

One of my favorite hymns for this season is *Now Thank We All Our God*. These are the words of the first stanza:

Now thank we all our God, with
heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in
Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has
blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still
is ours today.

While you may be familiar with the hymn, you may not know its history. The words were written by Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran minister, who served in Eilenburg, Saxony, during the Thirty Years' War.

The walled city of Eilenburg saw a steady stream of refugees pour through its gates. The Swedish army surrounded the city, and famine and plague were rampant. Eight hundred homes



were destroyed, and the people began to perish. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors, who had to conduct dozens of funerals daily.

Finally, many of the pastors died and Rinkart was the only one left — doing 50 funerals a day. When the Thirty Years' War ended, and Rinkart wrote this hymn as a testament to his faith that, after such difficult times, he was able to write a hymn of abiding trust and gratitude toward God.

I wonder what hymns will be written from 2020 and this time of COVID. I believe we will hear about faith in difficult times, abiding trust and gratitude to God.

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All Saints Sunday, November 1

Members of St. Paul's Family or their partners who have died since All Saints Sunday 2019 will be remembered during both morning worship and Evening Prayer on November 1 by the reading of their names, as listed below.

Ralph Baughman

Robert (Bob) Bell

Margaret Lloyd-Bingham

Gordon Bisel

Elmer Conrad (Buddy) Carroll

Lois Fantini

Thomas (Tom) Fort

Sari Frey

Henry Gissel

Betty Ruth Boyd Harper

Alfred Lazzeri

Carlton Riley

Thelma Rowe

Levis (Racy) Sanford

Jack Curtis Savage



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON

Evening Prayer

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Sunday, November 1, at 4:15 pm

JOIN US AT WWW.STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG/STREAM

Scripture, prayers and musical meditations as we remember our loved ones.
The service will include the reading of the necrology and Maurice Duruflé's Pie Jesu.

To participate in the Evening Prayer for the Faithful Departed, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/stream at 4:15 pm, following the monthly Service of Holy Communion, which begins via Zoom at 4 pm. To participate in the monthly communion service, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/worship, scroll down to the Monthly Communion image, and follow the instructions.



Join us Online for our

Town Hall Meetings

Sunday, November 15 at 4 pm &
Tuesday, November 17 at 7 pm

Rev. Jeff will share updates about the church: where we are now and what to look forward to.

Register by visiting www.stpaulshouston.org/events and selecting your preferred date!

The same information will be presented at both sessions, though the Q & A may differ.

Children's Sabbath and Third-Grade Bibles

Like much else since mid-March, this year's celebration of Children's Sabbath and the presentation of personalized Bibles to our third graders will be a bit different this year.

This year's celebration will be in the Sunday morning worship services on November 22. Rev. Kate Flint, Associate Pastor for Children's Ministries will preach, and St. Paul's children will read the scripture lessons.

In lieu of a live presentation of personalized Bibles to our third graders, pictures of each of those third graders being presented their Bibles in their homes will be shown during the worship service.

The Children's Defense Fund has led and organized The National Observance of Children's Sabbath since 1991. This ecumenical celebration brings together people of all faiths to address the needs of children.



St. Paul's Family

Birth.

Congratulations to Elisabet Cruz and David Echevarria on the birth of their son, David Alexander Echevarria, born October 10, 2020. Elisabet is the ministerial assistant to St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston.

Baptisms.

Maggie and Marc Weimer presented their son, Thomas William Weimer, born September 28, 2019, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on October 11, 2020. The congregation welcomed him into the Community of Faith during the online worship service of October 18, 2020.



Advent Art and Devotionals Coming Soon

Resources for Advent will be available in late November. These will include the annual children's advent calendar illustrated by St. Paul's children. Details about these resources and how to obtain them will be provided through various St. Paul's media, including the *Chimes* that is emailed on Thursdays, the weekly Pastor's Message that is emailed on Fridays, the St. Paul's Facebook page, and the website. To receive the *Chimes* and the Pastor's Message, please sign up through the large black button near the top of St. Paul's homepage, www.stpaulshouston.org

St. Paul's yard signs are still available. Get yours from the Sanctuary Reception Area when the building is open, M-F 10 am to 2 pm. When coming into any St. Paul's building, please first complete the Health Screening Questionnaire via the St. Paul's app or the QR code or paper questionnaire at the entrances. Picture in poster by Chris Newlin, Eclectic Productions.



Caroline and Ward Williams presented their daughter, Nora Caroline Williams, born December 18, 2019, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on October 18, 2020. The congregation welcomed her into the Community of Faith during the online worship service of October 25, 2020.

Deaths.

Deepest sympathy to Ben Elmore and his family on the death of his mother, Mildred Tonahill Elmore, who died on October 1, 2020, in Dallas.

Deepest sympathy to Cindy Snow on the death of her brother Jeff Drake, who died October 21, 2020, in Illinois.

To update membership records, including telephone numbers and email addresses, please contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org.

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

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

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



Amazing Place Faith Care Connection

Living alone and social isolation are risk factors for dementia. If you are concerned about a socially isolated person, contact one of St. Paul's ministers so a connection can be made.

Amazing Place provides virtual options for individuals and families living with dementia. These include activities and caregiver counseling, plus pick-up or delivery of brain-healthy meals. Described in more detail at www.amazingplacehouston.org/updated-services, in summary they are

Connections Programs. These include: *Savvy Caregiving* and *Memory Training*.

Savvy Caregiving connects caregivers with an understanding of dementia, its effects on behavior, and how to develop strategies for caregiving and decision-making. The next free six-week virtual course will be on Wednesdays, November 4 to December 9, from 11:30 am to 1:30 p.m. To connect, email Sharon Cantrell via scantrell@amazingplacehouston.org.

Memory Training is designed to learn techniques and strategies to improve memory. The next two \$80, four-week classes will be Mondays, November 1-23, and Tuesdays, December 1-22, both from 10 to 11:30 am. To register, contact Sally Davis via sdavis@amazingplacehouston.org.

Day Program Services. These include: *Activity Program* and *Dementia Caregiver Counseling Services*.

Memory Preservation Nutrition^(R) Meals. This carryout and delivery meal service is the solution for easy, delicious, brain-healthy nutrition — for anyone. See www.amazingplacehouston.org/updated-services/memory-preservation-nutrition-meals.

Amazing Place is a day program for people with to moderate dementia that also trains and educates caregivers, congregations, health professionals, and the community to equip them with essential knowledge and tools.



PRIMETIMERS

Thursday, November 12
11:00 am to Noon via Zoom

WASP: The Best Kept Secret of WWII

Learn the untold story of Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) who served our country from 1942-1944. Program by Ann Haub, Collections Manager and Archivist of the National WASP WWII Museum.

TO CONNECT CONTACT PRIMETIMERS@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG

In commemoration of Veterans Day, the Primetimers' November program will tell the story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) who served our country from 1942 to 1944. Ann Haub, Collections Manager and Archivist of the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, TX, will present virtually to anyone interested on Thursday, November 12, at 11 am. To connect with this fascinating program, email primetimers@stpaulshouston.org by Tuesday, November 10, at noon.

For a preview about this museum, please see www.waspmuseum.org and about the women pilots' WWII service, please see www.army.mil/women/history/pilots.

Eager to Be Blessed



St. Paul's critters and their people rode through the circle driveway for this year's annual Blessing of the Animals service, which began with litany during the morning worship services. Those driving through were given a copy of the Prayer of St. Francis, a St. Paul's yard sign, dog or cat or people treats, and individual blessings. Thanks to William Budge, Martha Gau and her sons, Pat and Sonny Pearson, Anna Teagarden, and Rachel and Chris Wiggs for assisting with this special occasion.



Thanks to the many people who drove St. Paul's vans to take people from Boynton Chapel UMC to early voting polling locations and also helped welcome people to the church. Thanks also to Ashlee Ross, who coordinated this initiative with the Texas Annual Conference.

Pastor's Message

Continued from page 1

My prayer is that you will find much to be thankful for this holiday season. I know that I do.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald, Senior Pastor

EAC Planning for Clients' Winter Needs

The Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC) continues to adapt to provide basic needs to people experiencing homelessness while also serving 400 sack lunches each weekday.

Urgent needs vary a bit each week. To receive the weekly update, email info@eachouston.org. For volunteer information, please call Marian Bryant via 832-859-1065.

In preparation for winter, the latest urgent needs include men's warm winter jackets, gloves, shoes, and jeans. Always welcome are peanut butter crackers, granola bars, Vienna sausage, fresh fruit (bananas and oranges), and fruit cups.

Clothing is now distributed by appointment with no physical contact, and volunteers are needed to assist with that effort.

Donate local bakery goods through Three Brothers Bakery: www.3brothersbakery.com/product/provide-a-mitzvah-make-a-donation.



Envision Change in our Communities is the theme for a discussion with Ordinary Life Women on Thursday, November 5. The group will use *Erasing Racism: A Spiritual Practice* by Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis as a discussion guide.

To download the guide, go to www.ordinarylife.org/resources-for-growth

To connect with this hybrid Zoom and in-person gathering, email lynnmschroth@yahoo.com.

Lewis was the featured speaker at an Ordinary Life webinar October 17-18. To download her presentations, please go to www.ordinarylife.org.

Other Opportunities

Following 40 Days of Listening and Prayer, St. Paul's began providing additional opportunities and resources for passionate and sustained action to overcome racism. These continue and are described more thoroughly at www.stpaulshouston.org/anti-racism where a registration form also is provided.

Other groups seeking ways to overcome racism include

St. Paul's Moms Group. Led by Rev. Kate Flint, Associate Pastor for Children's Ministry, moms of all ages are 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. Connect: kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

her | meneutics. This women's group 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. Connect: hermeneutics_spumc@gmail.com



Harvey Work Days Are Back

Yes! Three years after Hurricane Harvey, people still need help with their homes affected by this devastating storm. The next Harvey Work Day will be Saturday, November 7, from 8 am to 3 pm (or sooner). For more information and to sign up, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/events/harvey



Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan presents a check from St. Paul's to the principal of MacGregor Elementary School, Tara Garrett, to pay for computers and related supplies needed for virtual learning and beyond. This check for \$5,000 supports shifting educational needs in this time when there is such a demand on our educators. Thanks to all the groups and individuals who donated to this effort.



Thanks to the 41 people who donated blood at St. Paul's during September. Another opportunity will be here on Sunday, November 29. To sign up now, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/events/2020/11/29/blood-drive. All donors will receive a free hoodie and will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. If you do not need a hoodie, please consider donating it to the Emergency Aid Coalition.

St. Paul's Members Continue to Make Manna Bags and SEARCH Meals

Members of the Revolving Study Sunday School Class recently gathered on a Saturday to assemble manna bags.

The masked, socially-distanced group donated supplies for the bags and assembled more than 100 bags to be given to individuals experiencing homelessness.



Patsy Howard and Brenda Wright assemble meals for delivery to participants in the Coming Home program of SEARCH Homeless Services. Though the program is suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions, mentors and participants remain in socially distanced contact, and SEARCH staff deliver volunteer-prepared meals to the housing sites.



The Pastor's Bible Study of the Book of Revelation concludes this month, but you still can watch replays of these webinars at www.stpaulshouston.org/study.

This is an opportunity for the congregation to join the St. Paul's pastors as we all critically study different books of the Bible from different perspectives. Each week, two pastors have lead the webinar for the first 45 minutes with the last 15 minutes devoted to answering questions the participants have sent in during the webinar.

Another Pastor's Bible Study will begin in the spring.

HEALING CIRCLES
October-December
All via Zoom

Single Moms Circle
2nd and 4th Tuesdays (except November)
8:30-9:30 pm

Healing of Racism Healing Art Circle
in conjunction with the Center for the Healing of Racism
Third Fridays | 10-11:30am

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



One of the Choral Scholars ensembles rehearses in the Fannin Street Courtyard with director Matt Perez as they prepare for the November 22 pops concert. Music will range from Doo-Wop to the Beatles. The concert also will feature some familiar faces of former Choral Scholars who want the chance to sing with some of our current scholars. Tune in on Sunday, November 22, at 4 pm on www.stpaulshouston.org/stream. A video also will be available after the concert. Just search for St. Paul's Houston YouTube.

WEEKLY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Youth are gathering throughout the week via Zoom or in person. To learn more, email Tiffin, tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or Oksana, oksana@stpaulshouston.org. The day-by-day schedule is as follows:

Sundays: Sunday School. 10 AM via Zoom and **Porch Party.** 5-7 PM at host homes

Tuesdays: Girls Bible Study. 6:30 PM on St. Paul's outdoor Labyrinth

Wednesdays: H.O.T. (Hang Out Time). 7 PM via Zoom

Saturdays: Porch Party. 5-7 PM at host homes



Tuesday Night Girls Bible Study on St. Paul's outdoor Labyrinth

Foundation's Mission to Children Fund Re-named to Honor Ellen Edwards

In 1998 Renee and John Hawkins established the Mission to Children Fund through a gift to the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston.

The intent was to provide annual gifts to support St. Paul's outreach missions and ministries to children and youth.

Over the past 20-plus years, the Fund has impacted the lives of a generation of children by benefiting such ministries as the Rutabaga after-school program here at St. Paul's and the mission to St. Petersburg, Russia.



With gratitude for her dedication and service to children's ministries, the St. Paul's Foundation Board recently voted to re-name the fund to honor Ellen Edwards, long-time Director of Children's Ministries. She retired in August 2019 after 26 years of (official) service to St. Paul's.

Those wishing to similarly honor Ellen and her lifetime of service to children and youth may direct gifts to the Ellen Edwards Mission Fund for Children via www.stpaulshouston.org/give

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Stay in touch via the St. Paul's Kids Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KidsOfSPUMC) and the e-letter for St. Paul's Kids and families. To ensure receiving the e-letter, contact Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org. Also contact her for the GROW and Joyful Noise Zoom connections.

Children's Choirs: To register your child for choir, please visit www.stpaulshouston.org/childrenschoirs. For more information please contact Anna Teagarden via ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org. The day-by-day children's schedule follows:

Children's Sunday School: All classes, age 3 through 5th grade, meet on Zoom 9:45-10:45 AM for GROW and Joyful Noise assemblies followed by age-level groups. Check Children's Ministry e-letter for the Zoom links. For details: Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Children's Choirs:

- **Wesley Singers** (Grades 1-2). Sundays at 4 PM
- **Choristers** (Grades 3-8). Sundays at 4:45 PM
- **Treble Choir.** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **One-on-One Voice for Life lessons.** Contact ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org

CORNER STONE



SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL'S FOUNDATION

In 1960, Troy Whitehurst, then chair of the Wills and Legacy Committee at St. Paul's, figuratively laid the cornerstone of the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation with a gift of \$100. The vision of the Foundation was to ensure the maintenance of our Sanctuary and campus in perpetuity. Over the next 20 years, the Foundation grew steadily to \$200,000, largely thanks to modest donations.

Now, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the St. Paul's Foundation, it holds an endowment of more than \$24 million. The remarkable growth in the Foundation is attributable to major gifts and legacy giving. While living out its original purpose — 80 percent of the annual grants of the Foundation are directed to upkeep and preservation of our church's campus — the work of the Foundation has broadened to include scholarships, lectureships, and grants to non-profit agencies, predominately ones serving metropolitan Houston.

The growth of the Foundation may leave the impression that the only way to provide support is through large gifts. While these are certainly important, there is an opportunity for each of us to make an investment in the conservation of this beautiful sanctuary and the priorities of the Foundation.

In appreciation of that \$100 initial gift, members of St. Paul's are invited to become charter members of the Cornerstone Society and support the work of the St Paul's Foundation through a commitment of an annual gift of \$100 for each individual in your home.

Each year funds contributed by the members of the Cornerstone Society will be distributed in two ways:

- 50 percent will be directed to the original purpose of the Foundation — the Building and Facilities Fund
- 50 percent will be granted to a non-profit agency voted on by members of the Cornerstone Society. The grant will be awarded during the first half of 2021 at an event celebrating members and the work of the selected agency.

Gifts may be made on-line or by mail to the St. Paul's Foundation.

To donate online, go to www.stpaulshouston.org/give, click on the blue "Give Online" button; enter the amount where indicated; click "Give one time"; on the drop-down Fund list, select Foundation"; and write Cornerstone on the memo line.

To donate by mail, please write your checks to St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston and send them in care of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main at Binz, Houston, TX 77004.

For additional information about the Cornerstone Society, please contact Mary Linda Portner (mlportner@stpaulshouston.org or 713-818-3101).

Volunteers are needed to help build beds, plant, and help maintain St. Paul's community mission garden. The garden will be located on the Prospect Street side of the Jones Building and is in the final stages of being planned. Part of a butterfly garden used by St. Paul's School is being transformed into this community mission garden. The school's children then will have the opportunity to learn from both types of gardens. The next community garden meeting will be November 13, from 10:30-11:15. Email hspaw@stpaulshouston.org for the Zoom link.



The annual report for the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston is now on the website. Access it via www.stpaulshouston.org/foundation. For a hard copy, email mlportner@stpaulshouston.org

Revive Update at Town Hall Meetings

Hard to believe, but it was only earlier this year that we rededicated our Sanctuary and celebrated the success of the Revive campaign after a year of construction upheaval.

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald and one of the Revive chairs, John Hawkins, will provide updates of the status of the of the campaign at the Virtual Town Hall meetings later this month — Sunday November 15, at 4 pm and Tuesday, November 17, at 7 pm. To register, go to www.stpaulshouston.org/events, and scroll down to select your preferred date.

Part of their message will be a reminder that the campaign was made possible by multi-year pledges from our congregation. To bring the campaign to a successful conclusion, it is essential that all pledges be fulfilled. For most donors, 2021 is the final year of their commitment.

We are immensely grateful to all those who are faithfully fulfilling their commitments. Please help us ensure the success of our campaign by completing your pledge on or before the end of 2021.

Additional donations are always welcome. For information about the Revive campaign and how to give, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/revive



The St. Paul's Choir's annual gingerbread house and bake sale has been cancelled for 2020.

Joy to the World will be an outdoor event featuring the traditional Lessons and Carols of Christmas while honoring the safety and health requirements of St. Paul's Re-Gathering Task Force.

Logistics are still being determined, but it is anticipated that, while free of charge, this will be a ticketed event in order maintain physical distancing throughout the walk.

Further information will be provided through various St. Paul's media, including the *Chimes* that is emailed on Thursdays, the weekly Pastor's Message that is emailed on Fridays, the St. Paul's Facebook page, and the website.

To receive the *Chimes* and the Pastor's Message, please sign up through the large black button near the top of St. Paul's homepage, www.stpaulshouston.org

St. Paul's Transportation Capabilities Expand with New Vehicles

Thanks to a gift from a generous donor, St. Paul's fleet of vehicles has been expanded with three new vehicles plus one more to come, and additional protection for the fleet will be added to the current fenced-in area where they are kept next to Abraham Station.

A description of each the new vehicles follows:

2020 Chevrolet Prodigy. This 14-passenger van meets regulations for a Multi Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB), meaning that pre-school children may safely ride in it. This joins another 14-passenger MFSAB-rated van, purchased by St. Paul's School, that will be kept.

2020 Chevrolet 3500 Allstar. This van has permanent seating for 12 passengers plus 2 spots for wheelchairs and is equipped with a fully automatic wheelchair lift.

Federal Premier Bus. This 36-passenger bus is for transporting larger groups for longer distances in a more comfortable ride. It also is small enough to maneuver well on city streets.

One does not need a commercial drivers license (CDL)

to drive the vans, but a CDL is required to drive the 36-passenger bus. To be added to the list of approved St. Paul's drivers, please contact Marisa Cisneros via marisa@stpaulshouston.org.

Truck to Be Purchased

In addition to these vans and bus, which have been delivered, the purchase of a 3/4-ton pick-up truck has been approved. It will be used to move items around the campus, run church errands that require moving cargo or towing trailers, and tow equipment trailers for mission trips.

Currently, Maintenance Supervisor Joe Gradney uses his personal truck for these local purposes, and the Youth often have to rent trucks to tow equipment trailers for mission trips.

This truck also would have decals to indicate an additional security presence.

These four vehicles will bring St. Paul's fleet to a total of five. The two vans that St. Paul's is retiring will be given to other United Methodist churches.



St. Paul's new 36-passenger bus. The smaller vans are white, also with St. Paul's logos.