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Pastor's Message

"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

— Matthew 25:35-36

The hot and busy summer is coming to a close, time to get ready for a busy fall. We have had a great summer here at the church filled with camps, mission projects, Vacation Bible School, trips, and great worship together, both online and in person.

Recently, I read *Have A Little Faith*,



Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald
Senior Pastor

by Mitch Albom and he told a story that reminded me of our work as the church.

The Reb once gave a sermon in which heaven and hell were shown to a man. In hell, people sat

around a banquet table, full of exquisite meats and delicacies. But their arms were locked in front of them, unable to partake for eternity.

"This is terrible," the man said. "Show me heaven."

He was taken to another room, which looked remarkably the same. Another banquet table, more meats and delicacies. The souls there also had their arms out in front of them.

The difference was, they were feeding each other.

That is the way a church should look, feeding each other, when that happens, we've come close to heaven!

As we begin this Fall, I hope you will continue to be in prayer for our children
continued on page 7

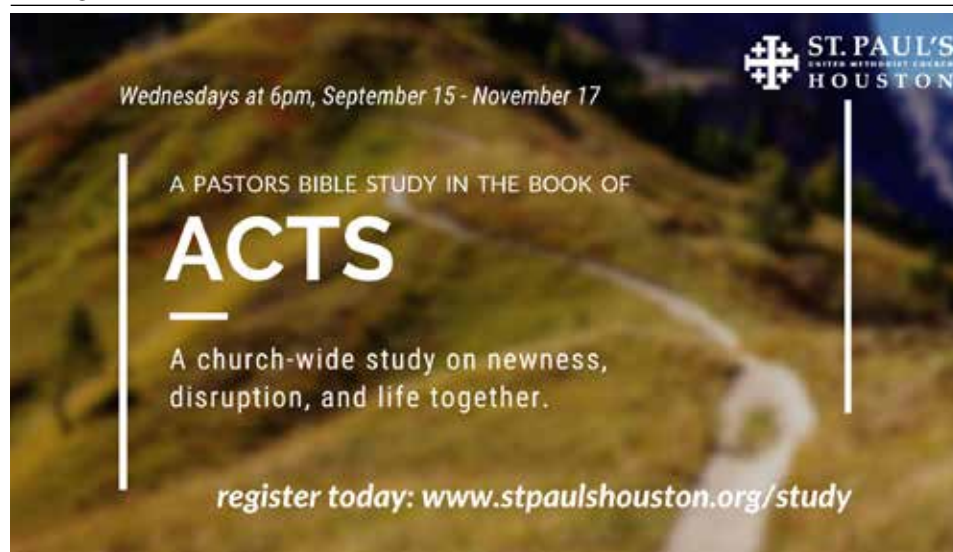
Small Groups: Heart of Christian Community

Small groups are not actually new or novel; they lie at the heart of our identity as Wesleyan Christians and followers of Jesus. These are groups where God's love and grace are embodied and communicated.

The past 18 months have made some crave to get back into the bustling world and have left others exhausted and in need of a place to exhale and rest. Regardless of where you find yourself today, a small group is where we can belong to one another in faith. Groups of 6-10 people are brought together through shared life experience and stage of life to develop significant relationships and spiritual accountability.

Everyone who is curious or excited about this new (old) way of becoming more connected will come together for an interactive celebration on September 26. We will learn how each one of us can shape our connection with God and the people around us.

To indicate your interest or learn more, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/small-groups or contact Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan (krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org or 713-528-0527).



A year ago we studied Revelation, last spring we studied Ecclesiastes, and this fall we are taking a fresh look at another book of the Bible — Acts.

The Pastors Bible Study 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 will lead the class for the first 45 minutes and will take 15 minutes at the end to answer submitted questions.

To enable participants to prepare for each session, a calendar of readings will be provided at www.stpaulshouston.org/study before the study begins on Wednesday, September 15.

Register now: www.stpaulshouston.org/study

Green Team Initiative Update

by Helen Spaw, Associate Director of Faith Formation

St. Paul's is committed to environmental stewardship. Our current focus is to create a single-use-plastic-free zone at St. Paul's and reduce our overall waste and energy usage. We look forward to working with everyone on this initiative.

On Sunday mornings you will notice re-useable coffee mugs and water cups at our hospitality stations. Everyone is welcome to bring their own water bottle and/or coffee mug to refill at these stations. Hand sanitizer also is located at these stations. Lights are turned off when a room is left empty and kept off when possible.

For Celebration Sunday, the disposable plates, cups, and utensils that were used were made from compostable sugarcane and corn. These disposables required no cutting down of trees or plastic waste.

We are transitioning to using only environmentally friendly products such as these when we are not able to offer re-useable options. For indoor dining events, we are using porcelain crockery and stainless steel flatware.

St. Paul's also has joined The Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston (IENOH). This network "seeks to



empower the faith community in Houston to advocate and act collectively as stewards of the environment by (a) fostering a strong connection between the faith community of greater Houston and Hous-

ton-area environmental organizations in order to reach shared goals and (b) empowering their members to advocate and take action on behalf of the environment." This group is affiliated with the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy, headquartered in Austin, which also houses Texas InterfaithPower and Light.

For more information about environmental stewardship practices or to join the Green Team, email me via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org. Together we can help care for God's creation and this planet.

Celebration of Life for Living Room Class

Gather on Friday, September 24, at 6 pm to celebrate the joy, community, and formation that the Living Room Sunday School class has fostered for many years. A brief liturgy and eulogy will be delivered, followed by a funeral potluck. In lieu of flowers, we will direct funds to a mission-al organization.

Whether it's been five months or five years since you last connected with the class, we would love to celebrate and close this chapter with you. To RSVP for location, email faithformation@stpaulshouston.org.

Two new Sunday School communities will launch in its place later this fall.

Familiar Faces, New Roles

This fall we are excited to announce new ministry roles with staff whom we already know and love. In alphabetical order, they are

Julianna Reeves, College Youth Intern (Fall 2021). A



former St. Paul's youth herself, Julianna is a remarkably talented college student who served as an intern with our Youth Ministry this summer. Following Okana Schwack's graduation and departure, we are pleased that Julianna will be able to continue with a fall semester

internship as she pursues a call to ministry that was cultivated in this very congregation.

Helen Spaw, Associate Director of Adult Faith Forma-



tion. Helen has the unique gifts and experience to expand our Adult Faith Formation outside of our beloved books and into the world in ways that are visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Through programs like our garden and art opportunities, Helen will develop

resources to engage a faith formation that is diverse and accessible. In addition, Helen will maintain our all-ages Special Needs program and the Fine Arts Academy.

Dawn Uebelhart, Associate Director of Worship. Dawn is



excellent at working toward our goal to equip laity to be active and conscious participants and leaders in worship. With this new role she will take on caring for our worship lay teams, coordinating logistics, and developing worship communications such as the

bulletin, which she has been producing for many years. She will hold this role as well as additional responsibilities with the Music Department.

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with these staff in areas of mutual thriving and growth. We are also grateful for the creativity and commitment of our staff and SPRC, which has allowed us to make these changes with no additional impact to the overall 2021 budget.

Create a space for
Emergency Aid
Coalition clients to
express themselves
through visual art



Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm
EAC "porch" in Abraham Station Parking Lot @ 5401 Fannin
For more details, email Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan
via prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org

Telehealth Clinic to Open Sept 13

The long-awaited telehealth clinic initiated by St. Paul's will begin providing basic healthcare services to Houston's under/uninsured population on Monday, September 13.

In Abraham Station, this is a partnership between St. Paul's and the University of Houston in operation with the Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC).

"The team has dreamed of this day for three years," said

Rev. Andrew Wolfe, Pastor for Congregational Care. "I am so grateful to all who've been part of

HealthMatters

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

this project — UH, donors, board members, and the EAC. What a powerful statement of faith to open a clinic that cares for our community by addressing healthcare inequalities."

To learn more about this caring ministry, attend the Primetimers October 14 program when Congregational Care Pastor Rev. Andrew Wolfe will present a program about how it came about and is functioning.

St. Paul's Family

New Members.

Welcome these new members who joined St. Paul's Family on August 22, 2021: Jason Dedrick and Patrick Lukingbeal with son JJ and Stephen Pritchard.

Baptisms.

Margaret (Meg) and Perry Thompson presented their son, Wesley Salter Thompson, born May 21, 2021, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on August 8, 2021.

Ashley and David Gordon presented their son, Jacob Clark Gordon, born May 12, 2021, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on August 8, 2021.

Kori and Darren Randle presented their daughter, Karoline Ash Randle, born February 22, 2021, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on August 15, 2021.



Stephen Pritchard

Member Wedding.

Congratulations to Dayle Towarnicky and Travis Klemm, who were married on Saturday, August 21, in Acord, NY, in the Hudson Valley. The groom's parents are Linda and Jeff Klemm.

Flowers.

The flowers at the altar on August 1, 2021, were placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Virginia (Nana) Henderson Gaines by her family.

Serve on a Disaster Recovery Team

JOIN OUR TEAM TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS. NO SKILLS NEEDED; TRAINING PROVIDED. Questions? prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org

This monthly opportunity to help re-build parts of Houston has returned. Over the summer, we have been blessed to host people from other cities who have been doing this work. Questions? prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org. To sign up to be notified of these opportunities, email kat@stpaulshouston.org.

To

- **update** membership records
- **notify the church** of births, deaths, hospitalizations, or other concerns

email Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org

To schedule a funeral, email Rev. Andrew Wolfe via awolfe@stpaulshouston.org and see www.stpaulshouston.org/funeral



Jason Dedrick and Patrick Lukingbeal with their son JJ

Vet TRIIP Returns September 4

Vet TRIIP returns to St. Paul's on the first Saturday of the month, beginning September 4, from 10 am to 5 pm in Abraham Station.

Fulfilling its mission to honor and empower veterans and service members, their families, and caregivers experiencing chronic pain and Post-Traumatic Stress, Vet TRIPP provides free sessions designed to promote stress resilience, relaxation, long-term recovery, healthy, active lifestyles, comfort and better sleep.

Services provided include chiropractic, relaxing acupuncture, clothes-on therapeutic massage, meditation, energy balancing, breathing, and peaceful music and aromatherapy.

For more information: nina@stpaulshouston.org.

Back to School with MacGregor Elementary, Boynton Chapel UMC, Rutabagas

St. Paul's People spent much of August preparing for back-to-school, whether or not they have children.

On Saturday, August 14, some worked in the yard and gardens at St. Paul's partner school, MacGregor Elementary, and others — led by Ordinary Life Women, who have partnered with Boynton Chapel UMC since early

COVID — distributed food at that church's Back-to-School Festival where uniform vouchers and school supplies also were distributed and COVID vaccinations were administered. (Some of the browse from the MacGregor yard/garden clean-up was sent to the Houston Zoo, which also works with the school's gardens.)

Many members donated school supplies for children in the Rutabaga After-School Program here at St. Paul's. Volunteers packaged these supplies as table decorations at **Celebration Sunday!** and a MacGregor Teacher Appreciation Lunch served by St Paul's People before they were given to the children. Pictures below.



Mentor at-risk children who attend nearby MacGregor Elementary. This one-hour-a-week mentoring can change the life of a child. Mentors must undergo a background check. Mentor training will be conducted virtually. Email rmahlst488@aol.com to get started.



Donate Instruments for After-School Music

Boynton Chapel UMC is establishing an after-school music program for children in their church and community.

If you can donate any kind of musical instrument or want to know more about this program, please contact Barbara Buckner via crimcrest@aol.com or 713-464-9874.

The children in this working-poor neighborhood will be greatly enriched by this opportunity to make music, and you will receive a tax credit for your donation.



Celebration Sunday Returns!

After a year off for COVID, the masked and vaccinated came together for Locomotion Promotion and *Celebration Sunday!* Train rides celebrated children and youth moving up to new grade-level classes. Thanks to the Men's Bible Study, Fe y Esperanza, and the Food Service Hospitality Team for their usual amazing job as lunches and socializing were enjoyed outside with compostable plates, utensils, and cups. Some brought their own re-usable cups.



Children's Sunday Morning Schedule

- 8 am-12:15 pm. Nursery Care.
- 9:45-10:45 Sunday School (in-person and on Zoom)
- 11-Noon. Children's Church (Bible story and playtime)

Children who start in worship with their families but do not stay for the whole hour can come forward to walk with Rev. Kate Flint or a Childcare staff member to the Jones Building during the Sequence Hymn. Starting September 12, the Choristers (3rd-8th grade) leave for rehearsal during the Sequence hymn.

Music for Children and Youth

Children's Choirs. Rehearsals resume Sunday, September 12, for **Wesley Singers** (grades 1-2) and **Choristers** (grades 3-8). To register your child or for more information, contact Susie Vanlandingham at susie@stpaulshouston.org. **Joyful Noise** (3 years to 1st grade) is ongoing.

Treble Choir. Rehearsals resume for this choir of treble voices on Wednesday, September 1 from 5:30 to 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Questions? Joel Trekell via at jtrekell@stpaulshouston.org.

Choristers and Treble Choir follow Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life curriculum.

Young Men's Choir.

Males ages 12-17 are invited to start a new music tradition at St. Paul's. Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, September 7, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Following the Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life curriculum, the choir will work on music suitable for changing voices. One does not otherwise have to be affiliated with St. Paul's to participate. All young male voices invited. Questions? Joel Trekell via jtrekell@stpaulshouston.org.

YOUTH SCHEDULE

Fall Kick-off for 6th-12th graders and their parents. Sunday, September 12, from 5 to 7 pm in Youth Center.

Sundays

- 10 am. Sunday School in Youth Center for 6th-12th graders, both in-person & via Zoom
- (after Sept. 12) 5-7 pm in Youth Center. 6th-grade Confirmands. 7th-12th-grade UMY.

After September 12:

Tuesdays: Girls Gathering. 6:30-8pm on Labyrinth and in Youth Center

Thursdays: Guys Gathering. 6:30-8pm in Activity Center

Questions? email tiffin@stpaulshouston.org

Thanks!

to everybody who was involved in this year's Vacation Bible School — *Discovery on Adventure Island*. To the parents who shared their children with us for the week and the many volunteers who made it happen — including many who do not have children. Together, they all quested for God's great light with stories, music, games, and lots of fun. Pictures below.

St. Paul's Moms Resumes September 8

Moms of all ages are invited to this group led by Rev. Kate Flint, Pastor for Children's Ministries. The group meets the second and fourth Wednesday from 9:30 to 11 am in the Youth Center, first floor of Sanctuary Building.

Kids Night Out Returns September 10

St. Paul's popular Friday-night program for children 4 months to 5th grade resumes on Friday, September 10.

The themed evening of games, crafts, play, snacks, and supervised activities runs from 6 to 10 pm, allowing parents to enjoy an evening on their own. The cost is \$25/child/night + \$5/additional sibling. A light supper is served around 6:30 pm. This month's theme: Back-to-School.

Kids Night Out is available only for families of St. Paul's Church and School. Required reservations via childcare@stpaulshouston.org are accepted for each date up to two weeks in advance.

Questions about KNO? email childcare@stpaulshouston.org. If your child has dietary or other special needs, email Kat Denton via kat@stpaulshouston.org.





Watch online via www.stpaulshouston.org/stream or attend in person in the Sanctuary with an RSVP through www.stpaulshouston.org/events/2021/9/12/choral-evensong

Read, Discuss

Discuss *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic* by John Shelby Spong with the Ordinary Life Book Group on Monday, September 20, meeting via Zoom. To connect, email george.a.sroka@gmail.com.

Discuss *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams with the Chapter One Book Group on Tuesday, September 21, at 7 pm via Zoom. To connect email Linda Harmes via hblinda@hibit.com.

Pastor's Message

continued from page 1

and youth as they return to school as well as all those involved in education.

Please continue to pray for our healthcare workers.

I thank you for caring for each other by wearing your mask when inside and for all of you have gotten your vaccine.

Peace,
Jeff

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald,
Senior Pastor

Recent Gifts to Foundation

St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston is grateful for these gifts received from March 29 to July 31, 2021. To learn more about the Foundation, see www.stpaulshouston.org/st-pauls-foundation or email foundation@stpaulshouston.org.

General Fund

Gifts by

Sol Bobst
Cindy & John Munday
Curt Peterson

In Memory of Loyce Baker by

Susie Ragsdale

In Memory of Mildred

Langford by

Harmon Langford

In Memory of E. Jackson by

The Men's Bible Study

Anderson Music Fund

In Honor of Anna Teagarden by

Susie Ragsdale

Building and Facilities Fund

In Memory of Joe Rosenbaum by

Susie Ragsdale

In Memory of Walter

Saunders by

Susie Ragsdale

Cornerstone Society

Gifts by

Fredrica Lake Fester & William Fester
Karen & Michael Sullivan
Kim & John Watson,
Olivia & Sophia

Bobbie and John Fellers

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Bobbie Fellers by

Camille & Glenn

Cunningham

Nancy & Ken Francis

Mary Keathley

Susie Ragsdale

Martha & Harley Tripp

James and Rosann Hooks

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In Honor of Rosann Hooks by

Carol Wiener

In Honor of Tim Leatherwood by

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Saunders by

Rosann Hooks

In Memory of Sandra Hujo by

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Houston Poverty Outreach

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The Roundtable Class

In Honor of Diane Schneke by

Beth Schneider

Mary Lelia and Walter

Saunders Fund

In Memory of Walter

Saunders by

Connie Hinshaw Brown

Betty Bynes

The Candlelighters Class

Tom Callahan

Camille & Glenn

Cunningham

Nancy & Ken Francis

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hujo

Beverly & Kimball

McMahan

Men's Bible Study

Joan and Richard Spaw

Pat & Jim Walzel

Arlene & Ben Wells

Beth & Jim Wiggins

Mr. & Mrs. James Wise

St. Paul's Foundation

Scholarship

In Memory of Richard

Hutchins by

Lenee & Jeff McDonald

In Memory of Walter

Saunders by

Lenee & Jeff McDonald

Primetimers: Houston's Aviation History



1940 AIR TERMINAL MUSEUM

Houston's aviation history began on February 18, 1910, with a demonstration by "King" Louis Paulhan in a Farman biplane. As the industry grew to accommodate passengers, Houston's first municipal airport opened in 1940. Now home to the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, the Art Deco building now houses this nugget of aviation history.

At the September 9 Primetimers meeting, docent Michael Bludworth will present tidbits of that history at 11 am via Zoom. To connect, email nina@stpaulshouston.org by Tuesday, September 7.



Due to the current surge in Covid-19 infections and hospitalizations, the Cornerstone Society Celebration Breakfast planned for Saturday, September 11, has been canceled. The 2021 grants to Justice for All Immigrants and FAM Houston will be awarded at site visits to these organizations. Questions/concerns? Please contact Mary Linda Portner at mlportner@stpaulshouston.org.

Looking Ahead



Members of this Lay Visitation Team have been trained and commissioned to care for the needs of the hospitalized, homebound, and at-risk members of the St. Paul's community. Each Spring, Congregational Care Pastor Rev. Andrew Wolfe leads a 12-week Lay Visitation Training series in which the participants study clinical pastoral care, Benedictine spirituality, and active listening skills. Due to pandemic constraints this team met virtually and waited until late August to have a service of blessing for their work. After this service are, front left to right: Pat Pearson, Denise Ansell, Thomas Heffner, and Rev. Andrew Wolfe (co-facilitator); middle left to right: Richard Spaw, Lynn Yeoman, Kelsea Skidmore, and Carol Archer; back left to right: Rod Kotenbrink (co-facilitator), Ben Skidmore, Larry Walters, and Janet Carr.

Other Dates to Mark this Fall

- October 3.** World Communion Sunday and Blessing of the Animals.
- October 10.** Bible Sunday and Evensong.
- October 17.** Children's Sabbath.
- October 30.** Fall Fiesta!
- October 31.** Laity Sunday.
- November 7.** All Saints Sunday. Willing Friends Reception and Evensong for the Dearly Departed.
- November 13-14.** Workshop and worship with Diana Butler Bass.
- November 14.** Choral Scholars Recital for EAC.

IMGH Tapestry Gala to Honor Rev. Dr. Jim Bankston

St. Paul's Senior Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. Jim Bankston will be among those honored at this year's Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston (IMGH) Tapestry Gala.

The organization's first in-person gathering since the COVID-19 pandemic began will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, October 27, at the Hilton Americas-Houston.

A Senior Board Member and former Board Chair of IMGH, Dr. Bankston will be the Spirit of Respect Honoree.

For ticket or other support information, please go to www.imgh.org/gala.



Caregiver Support Group

If you are a dementia caregiver or help support someone who is a dementia caregiver, St. Paul's invites you to become a part of a caregiver support group.

Dementia is an isolating disease, not only for the individual, but also the caregiver. St. Paul's wants to

create a space for families coping with dementia to find meaningful engagement and spiritual connection.

For more information about the formation of this group, email Rev. Andrew Wolfe, Pastor for Congregational Care, via awolfe@stpaulshouston.org.

Amazing Place to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

The 25th Anniversary celebration for Amazing Place is set for October 6. Given the current COVID climate it is still being determined if this will be an in person dinner or a virtual event.

Emergency Aid Coalition



Saturday, October 23
3-6 pm
Axelrad Beer Garden
1517 Alabama St.

Casual family friendly fundraiser featuring lawn games, 50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction, and "the famous Rudi Lechner's German Buffet."

Children Age 5 and under: Free
Children 6-16: \$25

Other individual tickets start at \$100

To purchase tickets or provide underwriting, please go to www.eachouston.org/events

The clergy and staff of St. Paul's appreciate your patience and consideration as we continue to adapt to changing conditions related to COVID and its variants. It is possible that activities announced in this edition will be cancelled or changed.

To stay as up-to-date as possible, attend worship services in person or online, subscribe to the *Chimes* weekly e-letter (email dadair@stpaulshouston.org), and Friend St. Paul's Facebook pages (Churchwide, Youth, and Kids).

To reach any clergy or staff, call 713-528-0527 or email info@stpaulshouston.org; your message will be forwarded.