

JULY 2019

the EPISTLE



Dear Friends,

This month we have the joy of receiving Pastor Becky Rokitowski as our new Associate Pastor. Becky's pastoral duties will be varied, but her primary areas of service will include the following:

YOUTH: Pastor Becky will be giving strategic and pastoral oversight to our youth program, and also using her gifts of teaching in this area. Raymond Pandley will serve as an assistant in the youth area, so the team of Pastor Becky and Raymond will comprise our youth team.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Pastor Becky will take the lead on all things related to Pastoral Care, and will be working closely with our already established lay teams (and developing additional lay leadership) in this important ministry of the church. As part of the larger picture of congregational care, Becky will also provide leadership in the area of hospitality.

YOUNG ADULT/FRESH EXPRESSIONS: As the church reaches out into the community, especially to young adults, Becky will be active in seeking out new ways of being the church for members of our community who may not be drawn to the traditional church setting.

In addition, of course, there will be preaching and the usual administrative duties. I do hope that you will drop by and introduce yourself to Becky as she gets to know you! Again, her family is husband Ted, Kaden (13) and Adam (8). We are so looking forward to having Pastor Becky as part of our team.

Our summer schedule of activities is already underway – and by the time you receive this newsletter we will already have sent 12 youth; 4 adults and several adult leaders to the Worship Arts camp in Leesburg. sent our youth to the Gulf Coast to help out in Panama City doing hurricane relief work; and entertained 20 elementary age students in our Extreme Explorers. And this month is VBS month – LOVE CAME DOWN a Christmas in July themed Vacation Bible School that will (hopefully!) cool things down as we learn together the story of Christ's birth and the change that love can make when it comes alive in our world. VBS is always an 'all hands on deck' event, and if you can't be with us to help directly, one thing you can do is sign up to provide materials! Check out the WEEKLY NOTES and Facebook pages for a link to our signup list.

And don't forget during the month of July we worship all together at one service at 9:30 a.m. – we will bring back some of the old Cokesbury hymns, dress casually for hot weather, and enjoy being together for the summer!

It's July – how did that happen? Let's make the most of it!

Blessings,
Kandace

JULY events

TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study for the summer continues *"It's Not Supposed to be This Way"*. The group meets every Tuesday morning 9:30 - 11:00 through July 23 (will not meet July 16). Child-care is available with reservation. An event will be posted on Facebook. Contact Malena Allison or Kathleen Lipson for more information.

GATHERING TO PRAY

God is still answering prayer as we gather in His Name. We invite everyone to join us as we pray together **Wednesdays, 8:00-8:30 a.m. in the church office** (Please make us move to a larger room!). God is with us!

ANNUAL SUMMER POOL PARTY

July 21
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
at Trousdell Pool.
Please plan to join us
for fellowship & fun!



church web site if you can help.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join our Vacation Bible School week *Christmas in July!* VBS will be held **July 15 - 19** from **8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Register your rising VPK through 6th grader now. **For a list of requested donation items please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E45ABAC28A2FE3-christmas>** **ADULT VOLUNTEERS & YOUTH HELPERS ARE STILL NEEDED.** Please sign up on the

CARING FOR CROCODILES

Our annual back-to-school supply collection for our Partner for Excellence, Kate Sullivan Elementary, will be held **July 21 through August 4**. During that time, we'll collect: girls and boys underwear and shorts (sizes, XS, S, and M), disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer. Please leave donations in the marked bin in the Sanders Hall foyer. Thanks for your loving generosity! For details, contact Meg Guyton at 443-4175.

SOUL FOOD

Bagging: Wednesday, July 24 - 10:30 a.m.
Distribution: Saturday, July 27 - 9:30 a.m.

Donations are now being accepted in room 308 (previously known as CHEERS Sunday School room). Due to limited space, the clothing items accepted are: T-shirts, jeans, underwear, socks, and tennis shoes, shorts, sunglasses, reading glasses (any strength), razors, small shaving creams, small deodorants, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Thank you to everyone who is currently participating in this much-needed ministry. Contact JoEllen Brown at brown.joellen@gmail.com for more information.

Encourage
one another &
build each other up
1 Thessalonians 5:11

NEWS FROM CUBA

Saint Paul's has recently learned the congregation at our sister church in Yaguaramas, Cuba will welcome a new minister in July. His name is Isaac Duani. In addition to being the Yaguaramas pastor, he will, also, serve as the Cienfuegos District Superintendent. Pastor Duani is married to Tania Aguilera and they have one son and one daughter.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Duani, his family, and the people of the church in Yaguaramas.

SAVE THE DATE

OPERATION LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Saturday, September 14, from 9:00 a.m. – noon. The entire congregation is invited to participate in various indoor and outdoor mission projects aimed at neighbor outreach.

CREATION *Care*

CREATION CARE MOVIE NIGHT & T-SHIRT BAG CLASS

National Geographic Movie: *From Paris to Pittsburgh*

July 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Sanders Hall

From coastal cities to America's heartland, *Paris to Pittsburgh* celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. See the trailer at www.paristopittsburgh.com. Also come enjoy free popcorn and drinks. See the Creation Care Facebook event to RSVP.



PLASTIC & FOAM FREE FLUMC RESOLUTION EMBRACED AT AC

The Creation Care Task Force presented a Plastic and Foam Free FLUMC resolution at Annual Conference in Lakeland on June 7 and it was overwhelmingly approved by 82% of the vote! The resolution encourages Florida churches to eliminate or reduce disposable plastic and foam use, and replace it with reusable or renewable items like washable dishes or paper products. In everything we do, Saint Paul's UMC can live up to this resolution and do our best to eliminate single use plastic and foam that pollute our waterways, hurt marine life, and become micro-plastics that are unhealthy for us all. How to make the switch: Sunday School classes can use real mugs or buy paper coffee cups like Earth's Natural Alternative Paper Hot Cup (12 oz, 50 count for \$7.89) at Walmart.com. Forget foam and use paper instead, and skip the single use plastic bottles and cutlery. To encourage events that use real dishes, the Creation Care team will even help with kitchen clean up. Email us at Cares4Creation@gmail.com to find out more.

Food Waste in the US



Did you know?



- U.S. residents wasted \$218 billion worth of food in 2017.
- The average American wastes 400 pounds of food each year.
- 21 percent of landfill space is filled with wasted food annually.

What you can do



- Plan your shopping to buy only what you can use.
- Reduce serving sizes so no one gets more than they can eat.
- Store and eat leftovers before they spoil.
- Compost your food waste.
- Volunteer or donate to food-rescue organizations like FeedingAmerica.org.

To keep food longer...



- Store herbs with their stems in a glass of water.
- Put ripe avocados in the fridge.
- Freeze flour and it stays fresh almost twice as long.
- Wrap leftover cheese loosely in wax paper, not plastic.
- Soften hardened brown sugar with a slice of bread.

More tips on reducing food waste at Earth911.com



ADOPT-A-WEEK IN THE MOSAIC GARDEN THIS SUMMER

The tomatoes are ripe and the Manna on Meridian recipients love them! We need a few more groups to Adopt-A-Week to help us with the busiest season in the garden, so we are calling on all families and Sunday School classes to check your schedule and see if one of the slots works for you. Email Jessie Perry for the latest sign up at perry386@msn.com.

JULY ECHO TIP: REDUCE FOOD WASTE

In the United States, we waste 30 to 40% of our food supply, according to the USDA. Some of this is good food that could feed hungry people. Becoming aware of how much food our home or workplace discards, we take steps to reduce food waste.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Linda Leach, Terry Shoffstall
- 2 Shirley Driscoll, Betsy Gingery, Justin Ward
- 3 Destiny Barnes, Bill Jones, Jafvert Reed Nathan Reed
- 4 Jay Helton, Stephen Rogers
- 5 Charlotte Courson, Bert Palmer, Tristin Turner
- 6 Sarah Helton
- 7 Joan DePew
- 8 Nancy Breslin, Yvonne Burks, Amy Groszos, Sybil Palmer
- 9 Cassidy Bailey, Heather Burger
- 10 Lily Griesheimer, Elaine McConnaughay, Phyllis McCranie, Jessie Schrimsher, Mary Transou
- 11 Jan Lewis, Jim Ross
- 13 Jacob Holleman, Beth Raynor
- 14 Bob Caldwell
- 15 Casey Griffin, Derek Groves
- 16 Peggy Miller, Livia Nystrand, Bob Raynor
- 17 Montana Gray, Betsy Oven, Simon Webb
- 18 Ashley Apthorp, Cayle Bryant, Dix Darnell, Loranna Goff
- 19 Charlie Field, Barbara Linthicum
- 20 Katherine Cox, Lee Ann Francheschi
- 21 Anne Schroeder, Carey Smith, Linda Wester
- 22 Okenwa Okoli, Hans Schroeder,
- 23 Billy Broadfoot, Gena Farnell, Hunter Garren, Bob Godwin
- 24 Ron Burger, John Carnline, Rebekah Hargrove, Audrey Silverblade
- 26 Brent Coughlin, Jen Turner
- 27 Hannah Joiner, Jim McConnaughay
- 28 Tallulah Field
- 29 Betty Roberts
- 30 Doris Pollock, Paula Wilkins



YOUTH

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Sunday School meets at 10:45 for the month of July in room 211. Our upcoming lessons are:

July 7 - Spiritual Gifts (yours, mine, and ours!)

July 14 - Fruits of the Spirit (no bananas involved)

July 21 - We'll begin a study about women in the Bible.

Every week: A strong lesson with some fun and food thrown in!

Every youth in grades 6-12 is welcome to be a part of our class. Parents, if your youth isn't in Sunday School, he/she is Missing Out on an important part of growing in the Christian faith. Questions? Contact Charlie (559-9423) or Meg (443-4175) Guyton.

JULY YOUTH W.A.V.E.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

July 3 - NO WAVE

July 10 - VBS Help & movie

July 17 - Help with VBS and Bowling (\$10)

July 24 - Pool Party

July 31 - Day Lock in

Sign ups are available on the Website! The last day to sign up for W.A.V.E. events is the Monday the week of W.A.V.E.

YOUTH WEEK 2019

I am so excited for youth week where we will revisit traditions, establish new ones, and more importantly welcome our rising 6th graders to Rooted! All youth week events sign ups will be available on the website.

I am so excited that Pastor Becky will be joining us! She has had experience with Youth Ministry and I am very confident in what she will bring to Rooted!

YOUTH CHOIR

Will resume in August.

ROOTED SUNDAY NIGHTS!

Every Sunday evening from 5:15-7:00 p.m. join us in Sanders for food, fun, friends, and a word of faith. Make a new friend! Please join us as we continue our series "I don't know who needs to hear this but...". As always bring friends and an appetite.



1 CHILD + 1 MENTOR = 2 CHANGED LIVES

Studies show struggling students who are mentored not only improve their grades, but often become better behaved and even become community volunteers themselves. Mentoring clearly changes a child's life, but it changes the life of the mentor, who gains a new relationship and feels more purposeful!

Join others from Saint Paul's who are mentoring at Kate Sullivan Elementary, our partner school. Our mentors range in age from late teens to mid-90s. Some are college students, some work full time, and some are retired. Each goes to the school once a week and works with a child for 30-60 minutes. It may be their best hour of the week!

To become a mentor, go to www.leonschools.net. On the home page, click on Community and then Volunteer Program Services. Scroll down to Sign-up Genius and register for a date to attend a mentor training session. Then go to the Volunteer Application and make sure you indicate you want to become a Mentor. Complete the Volunteer Application and click Submit. Questions? Contact Meg Guyton at 443-4175.

MUSIC

at Saint Paul's

Our Toddler and Preschool Music Groups, SPARKS Choir, and Youth Choir will be taking a break for the month of July.

We'll be resuming all of our choirs and music groups in August.

The Handbell Choir will be meeting as the participant's schedules allow.

Annual Conference 2019: On Mission Together

Florida United Methodists gathered at Florida Southern College in Lakeland June 5-8 for Annual Conference.

ELECTIONS

Members of the conference selected eight clergy and eight laity delegates to **General Conference**, the policy-making body of The United Methodist Church that will meet May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minn. The same number were elected to represent Florida at the **Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference** in July 2020. An additional six clergy and six lay members were elected to serve as alternate delegates.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

52 individuals were licensed, commissioned, and ordained for ministry. 38 clergy were retired during this Annual Conference.

BISHOP'S OFFERING

Conference churches gave over \$36,702 toward the Bishop's Offering Wednesday evening which will be divided evenly between establishing a United Methodist Church inside a state prison and funding for the Florida A&M University Wesley Foundation.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions passed:

1. Continue ministerial education fund that provides scholarships for seminary students. **Approved**
2. Encourage the Florida Conference churches to work with state and local governments to provide affordable housing for all people. **Approved**
3. Encourage the Florida UMC and its congregations to switch from single-use plastics and foams to more sustainable options. **Approved**
4. That the Conference live in an attitude of learning, welcome and missional focus with all people. By our Baptism, we commit ourselves to resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and affirm the sacred worth of all people. We will continue to create space and affirm the full participation of all ages, nations, races, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations and abilities. **Approved**
5. "A Conscientious Dissent From the Traditional Plan" Florida Annual Conference (FLAC) condemns the decision of the 2019 General Conference to pass the Traditional Plan and apologizes for the harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their families, their friends, and the body of Christ. "We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God," therefore we also assert and affirm that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching. **Approved.**



FAMILIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN JULY

Join us in Super Summer Sunday School as we dive deep into the Christmas story! We'll review and reflect on Jesus' birth as we also prepare to hear the message that "Love Came Down" during VBS.

Our Bible Verse:

.... but the greatest of these is LOVE.
1 Corinthians 13:13

July 7 - Shepherd's Story: Luke 2:8-20
July 14 - The Shepherd's Visit: Luke 2:8-20
July 21 - Follow the Star: Matthew 2:1-12
July 28 - A Baby is Coming: Jeremiah 23:5-8

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for our Vacation Bible School Week "Christmas in July", July 15 - 19, from 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Register your rising VPK through 6th Grade now...there are still plenty of spots left! **ADULT VOLUNTEERS & YOUTH HELPERS ARE STILL NEEDED!** Please sign up online under Children's Ministry <https://www.saintpaulsumc.org/ministries/children/vbs/>

VBS VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES

July 10 - Volunteers Dinner - All adults and youth team - 6:00 p.m.
July 12 - T-shirt Pickup - 4:00-6:00 p.m.
July 14 - T-shirt Pickup - 10:30-11:30 a.m.
July 15 -19 - VBS Week - 8:00 to 12:30 p.m.
July 21 - VBS Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship

DATE NIGHT

July 27 is our next Date Night. **4:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Leave the kids with us and enjoy a evening out. Cost is \$15 per child/\$20 for two/\$25 family max. Register by June 24. <https://www.saintpaulsumc.org/ministries/children/date-night/>

Mothers of Preschoolers

If you're an expecting mom up to a mom of a kindergartener we'd love for you to join our community of moms. We support and connect 2nd and 4th Thursday each month starting in September. We meet in Sanders Hall at SPUMC and childcare is available.

Register now at
<https://www.saintpaulsumc.org/ministries/children/mops>
\$110 yearly registration fee
\$115 if registering after July 1

CONGREGATIONAL *Care*

CARE LIST

SHORT TERM:

David Beverly, Bob & Yvonne Brownlie, Ron Burger, Carolyn Drake, Stan Etheridge, Debbie Giglio, Daniel Gill, Bruce & Peggy Harter, Al Harwood, Jay Helton, Merry Ann Johnson, Ashleigh Johnston, Andrew Kinloch, Luu Ngoc An, JoAnn O'Keefe, Jack Pelham, Andy Prescott, Cynthia Prescott, Bob Richardson, Amy Ross, Ray Schwartz, Gretchen Scoggin, Dick and Doris Sublette, Joyce Thomas, Odis Williams, new members, volunteers, construction workers repairing our facilities, those who are grieving, families hurt by tornadoes and flooding.

LONG TERM:

Jim Allen, Laurie Batten, Betty Blair, Terry and Carol Broadway, Bob Caldwell, Louise Carpenter, Charlotte Chellman, Ivy Lee Daniel, Norma DeRuyter, Margaret Farnell, Pat Giglio, Nancy Graham, Oriska Henn, Ralph Hook, Leroy Irwin, Bill Jones, Robert Kennedy, Dottie Melton, Ruth Riley, Audrey Robbins, Dot Roberts, Rev. Becky Rokitowski & family, Terry Shoffstall, Ben and Betty Spivey, Norma & Pam Strickland, Melanie Tredik, Alzheimer's Project, lay teams, pastors, homebound members, those serving in the military, hurricane victims, Jail & Prison Ministry, violence in Tallahassee, mission ministries of Saint Paul's, our sister churches (Yaguaramas Methodist Church, Cuba, Soisson Church, Haiti)

OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

US AIR FORCE: Scott Baumgardner, Robert Berman, Steven Boles, John Bray, Robert Byford, Cierra Carlan, Dane and Becky Collette, Jake Hoogerheyde, Nathan Kraft, Nicole Parker, Noah Shoffstall

US AIR FORCE ACADEMY: Christin Burrows

US AIR FORCE NAT'L GUARD: Andrew Bennett, Micah Goodpasture

US ARMY: Rob Gricius, Burt Newman, Alan Sheehan, Tim Strickland, Lucas Trammell, Caleb Weand, Dallas Wurst

US ARMY NAT'L GUARD: Lance Moore, Russ Tucker

US ARMY RESERVE: Page M. Baldwin

US MARINES: Daniel Aulph, Jett Johnson, Martin Kuhnle

US NAVY: Sean Allen, Michael Scherdin, Scott Thoroman

WEDNESDAY MENU FOR JULY

No Wednesday night meals for the month of July.

Dinners will resume on August 14.

IN PRAYER AND SYMPATHY

To Jill Merryday and family on the passing of her mother, Elaine Christopher, on June 4 in Brandon, Florida.

OUR STAFF AND EMAILS

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks
kandace@saintpaulsumc.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Becky Rokitowski
becky@saintpaulsumc.org

Church Administrator

Laurie Batten
laurie@saintpaulsumc.org

Publishing Specialist

Linda Fletcher
linda@saintpaulsumc.org

Facilities Coordinator

Stephanie Corry
stephaniecorry@saintpaulsumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries

Jill Merryday
jill@saintpaulsumc.org

Ministry Coordinator

Peggy Benton
peggy@saintpaulsumc.org

Nursery Director

Beth Wilde
beth@saintpaulsumc.org

Music Performance Associate

Gaye Herndon
gaye@saintpaulsumc.org

Adult Choir Director

Cynthia Prescott
cynpres@comcast.net

Youth Ministry Assistant

Raymond Pandley, II
raymond@saintpaulsumc.org

SPARKS Choir Director

Stephany Nystrand

Kitchen Coordinator

Betsy Gingery
Children's Ministries Assistant
Kambee Chan
Children's Ministries Assistant

Jenni Cox

Morgan Holmes

Summer Intern

Sexton

Simon Webb

Sexton Assistant

Odis Williams

Membership Secretary

Mary Ann Brown
membership@saintpaulsumc.org

Church Treasurer

Timothy Scott

OUR BISHOP

Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.

OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. Durwood Foshee

OUR MISSIONARIES

Delbert and Sandy Groves,
Zambia



1700 North Meridian Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

www.saintpaulsumc.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT SAINT PAUL'S

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday - Closed

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

Lessons from the Boardroom

ONE SERVICE SUMMER
9:30 A.M.

Pay attention church...