

AUGUST 2019

the EPISTLE



Dear Friends;

It's August—Back-to-School time! For some, the first poignant experience of empty nest; for others a welcome relief from the unstructured time of summer. August (at least in Florida) marks the beginning of the school year, and a settling in of family schedules. It is a time in the church where we generally begin programs anew after a summer break. It is a time in an academic community such as Tallahassee that football season looms, traffic increases, and students return *en masse* to town. It's exciting, sometimes overwhelming...but an opportunity to start again.

So, what will be different at Saint Paul's this year? Well, let's start with some new personnel - we have already welcomed our new Associate Pastor, Becky Rokitowski, and her family to Saint Paul's. Becky has stepped in to take leadership in the area of Youth Ministry and Congregational Care. Soon we will also be welcoming a new Facilities Coordinator (with huge thanks to Stephanie Corry for ten years of faithful service at Saint Paul's) and a new Nursery Director (again, big thanks to Beth Wilde for her twenty years of dedicated service to our children!). Staff Parish is working hard to replace these two dynamic ladies, and we will keep you informed of any actions as they occur.

Another new thing to watch for is a new church management software program. Our current system, Shelby, is no longer going to be supported in its current format, and we have the opportunity to move toward something that is more user-friendly and helpful in our ministry setting. When we make this change, we will be sending out necessary information to all households. I think you will like the new possibilities that BREEZE will bring to Saint Paul's!

Finally, it is our hope that very soon we will be able to move into the newly renovated Children's Ministry Wing that is part of our Making Room project. While unexpected delays with the City of Tallahassee have slowed us down some, we are confident in a not too distant move-in date, and know that you will be pleased with the exciting possibilities that our new space will bring to our ministry to children and families.

Blessings,
Kandace

To my new church family at Saint Paul's UMC,
Thank you so much for all of the cards, meals, handshakes, and hugs. I cannot express how welcome you have made our family feel. It will still take us some time before we know your names and recognize all of your faces, so thank you for your patience as well. We are so happy to be able to call Saint Paul's our new family and home.

Pastor Becky

BEGIN 
With
LOVE

Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him.

C. S. Lewis (*Mere Christianity*)

For the next twelve months (August 2019 - July 2020) we are going to focus on this theme BEGIN WITH LOVE.

So much of our world is broken, relationships, families, churches, communities...it seems at times that we have forgotten the primary commandment of Jesus:

LOVE GOD
LOVE OTHERS
LOVE SELF

As Methodists we lay claim to LOVE as being the very essential nature of God. And because we begin with God, then we begin with LOVE.

All that makes us disciples of Jesus Christ - worship, growth, giving, serving and sharing our faith must be rooted in love if they are to transform us into the image of Christ for the sake of others.

Will you start to imagine what happens in your day-to-day living if you BEGIN WITH LOVE?

AUGUST events

KNITTERS AND CROCHETIERS

Wednesday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.

Knitters and Crocheters will resume **Wednesday, August 14** in Room 311. We have several projects we are working on and all are welcome. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, we will gladly teach you. You are never too old or too young to learn.

GATHERING TO PRAY

God is 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!

AUGUST CRAFTY CROP

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Get out of the heat and enjoy our fellowship for women beginning **Friday night, August 23, 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.** and continuing **Saturday, August 24, 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.** Bring your projects, a covered dish, and enjoy the fun and friendships! For more information contact Jill Merryday.

BETTY LOU ROGERS BOOK SHOW

Betty Lou Rogers, a member of Saint Paul's, has written a selection of books for young adults and children. She is having a book showing **Saturday, August 17** in room 300 from **10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to come and meet the author and purchase her books.

SAVE THE DATE FALL CAMPING TRIP

October 11 - 13

MUSIC

at Saint Paul's

Our various Music Ministries will be starting a new season during the month of August. We ask that you prayerfully consider joining one or more of our choirs and music groups. We have a wide variety of ways to serve our Lord and our congregation through music and arts ministries. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director, or Gaye Herndon, Music Performance Associate (gaye@saintpaulsumc.org), for more information.

Preschool and Toddler Music Groups will resume meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 5:30 - 5:55 p.m.

SPARKS Choir (Grades K-5) will begin its new season in September when our SPARKS program resumes.

Youth Choir and Sacred Dancers will help in leading the Youth Service on August 11 at 9:30 a.m. to culminate Youth Week. We'll be rehearsing during that week.

Handbell Choir is back to our regular schedule. We rehearse on Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 in the sanctuary.

The **Worship Band** leads worship approximately once a month. If you are interested in serving in this particular type of ministry, contact gaye@saintpaulsumc.org.

Covenant Chancel Choir has been on their summer break during the month of July. We will begin rehearsals again Tuesday, August 6, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. in the choir room. This choir sings at the 11:00 worship service weekly and occasionally at the 8:30 worship service. We, also, perform Christmas and Easter cantatas. We would love for you to come and try us out. For more information email Cynthia Prescott at prescottc1360@gmail.com.

Se'lah - If you want to sing but don't feel that you can commit to singing weekly in worship, Se'lah may work for you! We rehearse 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the choir room on Tuesday evenings. This group sings once a month in the morning worship services and gives an annual concert. We will resume rehearsals Tuesday, August 6. For more information, email Cynthia Prescott at prescottc1360@gmail.com

CREATION care



Saint Paul's Creation Care at The Energy Ball accepting the Energy Innovators Award in June, 2019. From left to right: Kim Ross, Executive Director of ReThink Energy; Jessie Perry, Saint Paul's UMC Creation Care Garden Leader; Anne Wilde, Saint Paul's UMC Creation Care T-Shirt Bag Ministry Leader; Cara Fleischer, Saint Paul's Creation Care Leader, Jeremy Matlow, Tallahassee City Commissioner.

SAINT PAUL'S CREATION CARE WINS STATEWIDE ENERGY INNOVATOR AWARD

The ReThink Energy Florida Energy Innovator Award recognized Saint Paul's Creation Care T-Shirt Bag Ministry for engaging, educating, and empowering people to help create a healthier, more sustainable environment.

The T-Shirt Bag Ministry is led by Anne Wilde, who organizes Green Team volunteers that meet weekly to cut, sew, and tie unwanted t-shirts into attractive reusable bags. The group makes over one hundred bags a month to hold the organic vegetables the Saint Paul's garden produces and donates to Manna on Meridian. These reusable t-shirt bags replace the plastic bags previously used at Manna. They, also, educate about sustainability through an information card in the bag that encourages the new owners to bring reusable bags when shopping and to reduce single-use plastic. The T-Shirt Bag Ministry has recently taken on the name the Bag Angels in memory of Rebecca Adams, who shared her love for others by anonymously making hundreds of t-shirt bags for Manna on Meridian. All are welcome to join the Bag Angels on most Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. by contacting Anne Wilde at (813) 843-8757.

Would you like to be a Bag Angel at home?

This no-sew project is fun and helps reduce single-use plastic that is polluting our environment. We have t-shirts (or use your own) that you can take home to make bags and then return to Saint Paul's. See our white cabinet in room 308 for shirts and instructions.

AUGUST ECO TIP:

Reduce plastic pollution by remembering to BRING YOUR BAGS! Keep them in your car, purse, and backpack so you are always prepared with a reusable bag.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Lauren Fleischer, Ellen Osborn
- 2 Aubrey Hahn, Bill Wilbur
- 4 Tim Ashley, Nena Martinez, Corrine Waltz, Jay Wirth
- 5 Sandy Friedman, Susan Gill, Christine Prescott, Steve Ray
- 6 Sam Bodiford, Larry Crawford, Catherine Hewitt
- 7 Hartley Bryant, Buddy Croft, JuliaCarol Love
- 8 Steve Chellman, Nancy Goff
- 9 Yvonne Kast, Steve Mayberry, Lucretia Thomas
- 10 Tommy Brinkley, Paydan Chan, Michael Chaney, Bryan Goff, Cecelia Novak, Mike Parramore, Andy Prescott, Vicky Prescott
- 11 Bill Perry, Wendy Raynor
- 12 Flo Dickinson, Will Dunn, Janet Newsom
- 13 Meg Bevis
- 15 Dot Carroll, Wayne Wallace
- 16 Ron Braswell, Kathy Combs, Mary Pridgeon
- 17 Jean Carr, Boots Howse, Kason Reed
- 18 Donna Crawford, Margaret Dowdy, Brandon Long, Jack Pearce
- 19 Grant Barber, William Hatfield, Ed Holmes, Karolyn Holmes, Ed Stripling
- 20 Scott Cherry, Tripp Coston, Jake Varn
- 22 Emma Apthorp, Cathy Tarleton
- 23 Lynne Quimby-Pennock
- 24 JoAnn O'Keefe
- 26 Trueby Bodiford, Charles Field III, Fred Frederick, Theo Johnson, Charlene Helton, Carolyn Shackelford
- 27 Brenda Petty
- 29 Sam Ashton, David Broadfoot, Stephen Leach, Andrew Moret, Randy Pupo
- 30 Michael McFarland, Scott Shoffstall, Carol Wortham
- 31 Susan Limbaugh, Jim Thompson



YOUTH rooted

Hello Saint Paul's Youth and Families! I am so excited that I have joined the ministry team as the new Associate Pastor, and that I will be working a lot in the area of youth ministry. Together, Raymond and I will be helping mentor our middle and high school students and helping our church families build strong connections so that they can grow in their faith and service. This month has one of the most exciting weeks of the whole year: YOUTH WEEK! Check out below for a calendar of events. Make sure to register online for the events, so we can make sure we have enough food, supplies, and transportation for everyone. The Sunday after youth week is Youth Sunday, where the youth will lead the entire worship service! One of the things I believe with all my heart is that our children and youth are not just the church of tomorrow, they are the church *right now*. We are all blessed when our youngest members are given opportunities to share their gifts and even lead. I see it as part of my mission to encourage and empower our youth (and all ages) to live out their faith through worship, learning, serving, and community... not SOMEDAY – TODAY.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Becky Rokitowski

WEEKLY EVENTS

ROOTED Youth Sunday School

Sundays, after worship - In August, we are going to be learning about the women of the Bible. Come hang out, discuss cool topics, and share snacks with us! For details, contact Charlie Guyton (559-9423) or Meg Guyton (443-4175).

ROOTED Sunday Nights

Every Sunday night from 5:15-7:00 p.m.

Join us in our newly renovated youth space on the second floor for dinner, community, games, and a message of faith. Middle and High School groups are part of our evening. Bring yourself, bring a friend, and bring an appetite!

YOUTH WEEK 2019

Sunday, August 4 ~ Youth Week party ~ 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

We will welcome our rising 6th graders into ROOTED by bringing them in on the Welcome Bus! It will be a night of fun, food, and games! All youth are welcome!

Monday, August 5 ~ The Amazing (G)Race ~ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Sanders Hall

A night full of fun we you will work with your team to achieve sweet victory! Based off of the TV show, clues and challenges will take you all over the church! A prize will be given to the winning team and dessert will be given to all!

Tuesday, August 6 ~ Messy Game Night ~ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Generations Park

Just as it sounds...MESSY...game night! Don't wear anything you wouldn't want to get messy because chaos will occur!

Wednesday, August 7 ~ Tubing the Ich ~ 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Meet in Sanders Hall

A coveted tradition for ROOTED when we take a bus to go tubing in the Ichetucknee River! Bring a bag lunch, sunscreen, and a few friends! Sign-ups are available online and spots fill up VERY QUICKLY, so be sure to sign up soon!

Thursday, August 8 ~ Pool Party ~ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., the Fleischer's house

Hosted by the Fleischers, we will get to enjoy the summer evening at a nice pool! Girls bring chips/desserts, guys bring drinks! Hot dogs will be on the grill!

Friday, August 9 ~ Record-Breaking Night And Pizza Party ~ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Sanders Hall

Records are meant to be broken and we will do just that! We will have minute-to-win-it challenges and group challenges for all abilities and skill levels! And there will be pizza!

Saturday, August 10 ~ Youth Sunday Rehearsal

We will gather in the Sanctuary to rehearse the Youth Sunday worship service. ALL youth are encouraged to be at the rehearsal!

Youth Sunday (9:30 a.m. Sanctuary)

The youth will lead our congregation in worship and a word of faith. The goal is to have ALL youth participate in this service.

-Youth Sunday School will follow the service in Room 211 from 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

-Families are invited to join together for a Youth Week celebration and Dutch treat lunch a Midtown Caboose at 11:45.

-NO YOUTH SUNDAY EVENING. Rest up and have a wonderful start to your school year!

HOSPITALITY

TEN FACTS ABOUT CHURCH GUESTS THAT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU.

Hospitality is perhaps one of the most vital ministries of the church and, also, one of the most often overlooked. It is easy for a congregation to consider itself welcoming and friendly because we consider hospitality from an insider perspective. Of course, we are friendly to one another – we KNOW one another! The real measure of hospitality comes when we honestly look at how we act toward guests to our campus and worship. Here are ten facts about church hospitality that might just surprise you, and perhaps get you to think about ways we might improve our hospitality ministry.

1. You will have more guests in one year than you think. Our “information gathering” in churches doesn't even capture the majority of guests. Research shows that five to eight percent of your worshipping community will self-identify as guests.

For Saint Paul's that number is approximately 15 guests per week!

2. Many of your guests are going through situations that make them more responsive to God. These are the folks that are the most likely to be moving, changing jobs, getting divorced, having kids, etc. They may be drawn to the church by the prior work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts (John 15). They are not an average cross-section of the population! This means that these guests may be particularly vulnerable, and a positive (or negative) hospitality experience may be multiplied for them.

3. Your guests are assessing very quickly whether or not they are coming back. This happens much faster than we think. Most guests will know in the first 11 minutes whether they feel welcome, and if they are likely to return. How/What are we doing in those first moments?

4. Your guests represent step one of accomplishing the Great Commission- these are the people coming to you! How are we investing (both time and resources) in encouraging those who come to our campus, whether for worship or other events?

5. A guest who is attending may represent years of prayer, service, and invitation by a church member. Bear in mind that one single negative experience can wipe out several attempts to be part of a community of faith.

6. Studies show that guests will talk about their initial experiences 8-15 times with other people. This one is both surprising and humbling. If we serve guests well we multiply our message of welcome. The opposite is true as well. What will guests say about our church next week?

7. A welcoming ministry is a great way to get people involved in service for the first time. There are plenty of intimidating places to serve like worship and leadership. What are the easy entry points at Saint Paul's for folks to serve? Are we doing a good job sharing this information?

8. A great ministry to guests nourishes a culture of hospitality that extends outside the walls. Think of hospitality as a ‘training wheel’ event for reaching beyond the walls of the church to a greater outreach. Focusing on welcoming reminds us all that the church exists for those who are not yet a part of it.

9. Investment in a welcoming ministry is an investment into every other ministry of the church. This is vital! If we do not welcome folks well into our community of faith, it is impossible to grow or even start new ministries. Those who experience welcome will extend welcome to others.

10. We are commanded in Scripture to be hospitable. This is foundational! A welcome ministry is not an ‘add on’ – it is one of the primary ways we model Christ, who welcomed all into a life of grace and discipleship.



FAMILY events

PROMOTION SUNDAY

August 18 - Our new year of Sunday School classes will kick off on this day. More details will follow soon. Come meet your new Sunday school teachers and learn more about our faith every Sunday 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

DATE NIGHT

Will resume in September in the new children's wing on the 200 level.

MOPS KICK-OFF PARTY

Thursday, August 22
9:30-11:30 a.m. in Sanders Hall

MOPS 10th NEW YEAR!

Our first meeting of the year will be **Thursday, September 12!** We are gathering new members as well as new GRAND-MOPS to help us in our MOPPETS area. For more information contact Malena Allison, MOPS co-coordinator.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Students of ALL AGES are invited to bring their backpacks to worship **Sunday, August 11**, at 9:30 a.m. for a Blessing of the Backpacks before the academic year begins. We want you to know that we are praying for you as you begin the 2019-2020 school year!

SPARKS WEDNESDAYS

Will begin **September 4**. Stay tuned for all the exciting plans for the new year!

MISSION ministries

CARING FOR CROCODILES

Saint Paul's annual back-to-school supply collection for Kate Sullivan Elementary School will run **through August 4**. We are collecting underwear and shorts (sizes, XS, S, and M) for girls and boys, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes. Leave donations in the marked bin in the missions collection room, #308. Contact Meg Guyton (443-4175) for more information.

SOUL FOOD

Bagging: Wednesday, August 28 - 10:30 a.m.

Distribution: Saturday, August 31 - 9:30 a.m.

Donations are now being accepted in room 308 (previously known as CHEERS Sunday School room). Due to limited space, the items accepted are: light-weight shirts, T-shirts, jeans, underwear, socks, tennis shoes, shorts, sunglasses, reading glasses (any strength), razors, shaving creams, deodorants, toothbrushes and toothpaste, all types of toiletry items. Regular sizes are acceptable, except for liquids (which should be small sizes). Thank you to everyone who is currently participating in this much-needed ministry. Contact Jo Ellen Brown at brown.joellen@gmail.com for more information.

1 CHILD + 1 MENTOR = 2 CHANGED LIVES

By investing no more than one hour each week, you can change the life of a struggling young student *and* your own life! Prayerfully consider becoming a mentor at our partner school, Kate Sullivan Elementary. To become a mentor, go to www.leonschools.net. On the home page, click on Community, then Volunteer Program Services. Scroll down to Sign-up Genius and register for a date to attend a mentor training session. Complete the Volunteer Application and click Submit. Questions? Contact Meg Guyton at 443-4175.

CONGREGATIONAL *Care*

CARE LIST

SHORT TERM:

Family of Rebecca Adams, David Beverly, Bob & Yvonne Brownlie, Family of Chip Collette, Jack Corry, Carolyn Drake, Family of Ralph Durr, Stan Etheridge, Garrett Farrell, Maria & Melissa Garcia, Debbie Giglio, Daniel Gill, Bruce & Peggy Harter, Al Harwood, Merry Ann Johnson, Ashleigh Johnston, Andrew Kinloch, Luu Ngoc An, JoAnn O'Keefe, Jack Pelham, Cynthia Prescott, Bob Richardson, Amy Ross, Ray Schwartz, Gretchen Scoggin, Dick & Doris Sublette, Joyce Thomas, Odis Williams, new members, construction workers repairing our facilities, those who grieve, 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 AUGUST

Dinners will resume on August 14.

8/14 - Ribs

8/21 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans

8/28 - Crispy chicken, rice, veggie medley

NEW MEMBERS AT SAINT PAUL'S

Charlotte Keaton, 1809 Morning Star Lane, 32312

Parker Keaton, 1809 Morning Star Lane, 32312

Natalie Monteiro, 2201 Mulberry Blvd., 32303

James Rolfe, 3061 N. Fulmer Circle, 32303

IN PRAYER AND SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of Rebecca Adams, who passed away July 2 in Tallahassee.

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

TBD

Director of Children's Ministries

Jill Merryday
jill@saintpaulsumc.org

Ministry Coordinator

Peggy Benton
peggy@saintpaulsumc.org

Nursery Director

TBD

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

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

COMING SOON - PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Join us **Wednesday evenings, September 4 -25**, for a four-week study called **We Are the Church TOGETHER**. This four-week study is based on Dr. Dana Robert's book, *The Book of John, Friendship, and Mission Together*, and her inspiring presentation at our recent Annual Conference. All members of the church are invited to this study and discussion as we continue to be the church TOGETHER.

