

# the EPISTLE



**Our Missions team met in January to report on their different projects. Read on to learn what's going on with Missions...**

**Haitian church in Soisson, Haiti**– The church is still standing in spite of the chaos and violence spreading across that country. It is very difficult to send aid to them, but we are praying for the time when we can again support them financially.

**Hurricane response-** Don Griesheimer and Mike Zeigler went on a one-day work party from our district to help families whose homes were flooded in Steinhatchee. Mike and David Gill attended the SEJ Disaster Academy at the Warren Willis Conference center to learn how to help our church be involved in disaster recovery.

**Refugees- no official project in 2025-** Two years ago Saint Paul's became an official "Home Team" for a Guatemalan family (2 parents and 3 young children) brought to resettle in Tallahassee by the International Rescue Committee seeking asylum. Thanks to the hard work of about 15 church members and donations from the whole congregation this family is now self-sufficient and our "home team" is disbanded. Since then, several other relatives of this family have also been resettled here and some of our church members continue to assist them in personal ways.

**Project Annie-** Don shared that he has been volunteering for the past 4 years on "Project Annie" in Frenchtown where Miss Annie Johnson has been working to turn her food pantry into a child-care center. Don explained that the project had many set-backs, but they are very close to finishing the remodel. Items still needed: changing tables, carpet and area rugs for the children.

**Soul Food-** Larry shared that we need someone to cook a hot breakfast once a month for the unhoused folks whom we serve at the parking lot on Lake Ella. Larry is working with our elected officials and law enforcement to make the distribution of food, coffee, donuts, clothes and toiletries unimpeded.

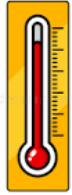
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## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Feb 1 Crafty Crop, 10:00, Sanders Hall
- Feb 2 Sunday Night Rooted, 5:00, Parlor
- Feb 3 Ed Wynn lunch, 10:30am, Sanders Hall
- Feb 5 Valentine's Card Party, 5:30pm, Parlor
- Feb 6 MomCo, 9:30, Sanders Hall  
Circle of Support, 10:00, Parlor
- Feb 9 Chili Cook-off, 12:15pm, Sanders Hall
- Feb 10 Congregational Care mt, 10:30am, Room 326
- Feb 11 United Women in Faith, 10:00am, Sanders Hall
- Feb 15 Manna on Meridian, 8:00am, Faith Presbyterian
- Feb 16 Youth Confirmation begins
- Feb 18 Alzheimer's Lunch, 11:30, Parlor
- Feb 20 MomCo, 9:30am, Sanders Hall  
Circle of Support, 10:00, Parlor
- Feb 22 Soul Food, 9:30am, Lake Ella
- Feb 24 Governing Board mt, 6:30pm Parlor
- Feb 28 Crafty Crop, 4:00, Sanders Hall

# CREATION *care*

## HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2025?



Global warming is here.

2024 was a difficult year for our planet. It was the hottest year on record and exceeded the target set in 2015 by the Paris Climate Agreement. There were droughts, particularly in the Amazon region; wildfires, in California during January and also in South America; terrible flooding in Nepal, Sudan and Spain and closer to home – hurricanes Milton and Helene. The Methodist Church recognizes the reality of climate change and has been addressing climate change since 2006 and issued in 2016 “Climate Change and the Church’s Response”.  
[www.umcjustice.org/latest/climate-change-and-the-church-s-response-49](http://www.umcjustice.org/latest/climate-change-and-the-church-s-response-49)

The citizens of the world still have a chance to make a difference. There are at least 5 changes an individual or family can utilize to slow global warming, we will explore these ideas in more depth over this year: reduce energy consumption; use public transport; reduce meat and dairy consumption; participate in tree planting initiatives; and reuse and recycle.

Let’s begin this year looking at how we can reduce energy consumption:

Purchase energy efficient appliances when yours’ need to be replaced. Check with the city to see if your new appliance may qualify for a rebate. [www.talgov.com/you/you-products-home-es-rebates](http://www.talgov.com/you/you-products-home-es-rebates)

When changing lightbulbs select LED.

Make a habit of turning off lights and unplugging electronics when they are not in use.

Lower your thermostat in the winter and raise it in the summer or utilize smart thermometers to adjust the temperatures when no one is at home.

Wash your clothing in cold water.

Check your home for adequate insulation. You may wish to contact the City of Tallahassee for a free energy audit:

[www.talgov.com/you/you-products-home-energy-audit](http://www.talgov.com/you/you-products-home-energy-audit)

Thank you for doing your part. We would love to hear from you about what actions you have taken to save energy in your home. If you don’t mind us sharing your tips, send an email to Jan Cuddington ([jancuddington@comcast.net](mailto:jancuddington@comcast.net))

# FEBRUARY events

## SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Join us every Sunday evening for our shared Contemporary Worship Service with Good Samaritan UMC, in Sanders Hall. This service begins at **6:00pm**. All are welcome to come.

## MEN'S READING COMMUNITY

The Men's Reading Group meets on Tuesday mornings at Ology Northside. They gather each **Tuesday at 8:30am (this is a new time)**

This group is discussing Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "The Cost of Discipleship". Written in 1937 as Hitler was rising, this book was reviewed in London: "A rigorously patient exposition of the Sermon on the Mount which compels the reader to face himself, and God, in any situation. A very moving book, lived as well as written." If you are interested in learning more about this group contact David Gill or Nic Fugate- davidmurraygill@gmail.com, ndfugate@gmail.com.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 11**, at **10:00am** in Sanders Hall. All women of the church are invited to come and enjoy a morning of education, service, and fellowship. If you have questions, please contact Erma Sever at 850-510-5807 or [ermasever@comcast.net](mailto:ermasever@comcast.net).

## CRAFTY CROP

Crafty Crop dates are a little different in February...Feb 1st is the second day of their January meeting and February 28th will be the first day of their February meeting.

Bring your projects and table space will be provided. The fellowship begins on **Friday at 4:00pm** in the Parlor. You may leave your projects all set up to continue the fun on **Saturday at 10:00am**. Any questions and/or to sign up, contact Jill Merryday (850-443-9428).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

- 1 Anne Ashcroft, Carter Perry, Magdalene Waltz
- 2 Mary Jo Batailles, Mae Dilger, Katy McBride
- 3 Stacy Joiner, Ryan Kline Jr, Alan Raynor
- 6 Kathleen Marsh, Michael Miller
- 7 George Apthorp, Karena Perry, William Perry, Tristan Steingart
- 11 Bill Corry, Karen Randolph
- 12 Belinda McClellan
- 13 David Beverly, Izzy Chan, Jan Cuddington, Noah Dobson, Brandon LaReau
- 15 Chris Morris
- 16 Chip Knight, Annelise Rios
- 17 Helena Schrader
- 19 Lillian McDermott
- 20 Olga Martin, Mary Pat Peacock
- 21 Leighanne Mortimer
- 22 Babs Powell, Judy Ray
- 23 Carol Swing
- 27 Charlotte Droessler, Judy Galloway
- 28 Susan Fristoe

# MISSION ministries

## MANNA ON MERIDIAN

Fridays at 1pm: we will be meeting at the Manna building behind Faith Presbyterian to pack the produce bags and stage some other items for the distribution the following day. There is a fun group of regulars but we can always use extra hands. We are usually done around 2pm.

Every Sunday and Monday mornings: Manna has started receiving bakery goods, produce, meat and even sometimes flowers from Trader Joe's and Publix on Bannerman. We need people on both Sunday and Monday to pick up from those stores and then sort and weigh the donations. These shifts involve some amount of lifting donations.

Every Sunday @ 11:30: The new Sunday distribution allows our neighbors to come into the Manna building and shop through the donations we are receiving from Publix and Trading Joes. This shift involves helping people look through the available stock and make selections, and can be done without any heavy lifting

Help is always particularly needed at our large monthly distribution, which takes place on the third Saturday of the month from 8-10 AM at Faith Presbyterian, just a mile north of Saint Paul's on Meridian. The next one is February 15th. Contact Kevin Scott if you want to learn more— kevingscott@yahoo.com

## RESIDING HOPE

Thank you, Saint Paul's family, and friends for your amazing support of Residing Hope in 2024. For decades, you have been a constant provider of the Children's Home. Your outstanding response to the Christmas gift card drive was valued at \$1,200.00 in cards, all greatly appreciated and enjoyed. In 2025, I look forward to Saturday February 1st, "The 10th Anniversary Celebration" for the Madison Youth Ranch. We can also look forward to our joyful "Noisy Offerings" (5th Sunday offerings) and videos about the youth and programs we support. The hope is that these children will see God's promises for themselves and renew their lives as they will be our future too. Thank you again for all you do to support this mission. God Bless you also. - Janet Clark

## CAPITAL AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Capital Area Justice Ministry is staying busy with our three focuses:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Gun Violence Interruption
3. Food Insecurity (voted in at the end of 2024)

If you have any interest in working on these justice issues, please feel free to reach out to me directly and I will help facilitate an introduction. We just attended the Leon County Commission Meeting January 28 in hopes of getting tax dollars approved to be used for affordable housing projects, and look for an update from me on this subject in the March Epistle.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: **justice and mercy and faith**. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others" (Matthew 23:23, NRSV).

### CAJM Upcoming Events:

#### **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6PM**

Team Leaders Assembly @ Jacob Chapel Baptist (2333 Lake Bradford Rd.) Team leaders and clergy gather to report-in on network building and to plan the Pep Rally.

*This is for everyone who hosted a house meeting last fall.*

# MUSIC

## at Saint Paul's

### **MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT PAUL'S**

It's a new year and a great time to join a choir! We have a place for you!

#### **Covenant Chancel Choir:**

Sings for the 11:00 a.m. (and occasionally 8:30 a.m.) services.

This choir also presents and leads special seasonal services. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. in the choir room. We will be starting work on our Lent and Easter season music soon. All are welcome to join us for these particular works.

A nursery/childcare is provided. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director  
(prescottc1360@gmail.com)

#### **Se'lah:**

Se'lah is an ensemble of adults who love to praise God through song but can't commit to sing in worship every Sunday. This group rehearses Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in the choir room. They perform a variety of music and sing in a variety of places. This group sings once a month in worship and occasionally with Covenant Chancel Choir for special occasions. They also present concerts. A nursery/childcare is provided. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director (prescottc1360@gmail.com)

#### **Kids@Art:**

This is our worship arts program for children in Grades K-5. We meet on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00, in the Children's Music Room, #200. We have just begun working on our spring musical, "Malice in the Palace," Join us!  
Contact Stephany Nystrand (stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com)

#### **Preschool Music Group:**

This is a developmentally appropriate music program for children ages 3-4 which meets on Wednesdays, 5:10-5:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Children's Wing. We incorporate singing, playing instruments, movement, and encourage healthy social development. Contact Gaye Herndon (gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

#### **Youth Choir:**

All who are in Grades 6-12 are invited to join us. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:45 in the Music Room (#200) in the Children's Wing. We are looking forward to attending MUSIC CAMP in June! Contact Gaye Herndon  
(gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

# WEDNESDAY

## nights

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Love in Deed, our Wednesday Night class, will continue until February 26th. Thanks to Darryl Scriven for leading this session!

During the month of February, we will continue to have speakers from various community organizations join us during dinner on Wednesday nights.

Keep an eye out for information about our upcoming church wide Lenten study. Classes will meet at a variety of times throughout the week; including Wednesday nights.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MENUS

On Wednesdays, the doors open at 5:00 and we serve food from 5:15 until 6:00. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and under. Dinner includes entrée, sides, salad, drinks and dessert.

Kids meals are chicken nuggets, fruit and a cheese stick.

Feb 5– Tortellini Alfredo w Chicken

Feb 12– Chicken Fajita Bowls

Feb 19– Stuffed Pork Loin

Feb 26– Pot Roast w Gravy

# YOUTH

## rooted

### GREETINGS!

The youth had a fantastic time at Rock The Universe where they got to fellowship with other youth from around the country while listening to their favorite Christian musicians. We were deeply touched by the outpouring of support from the Sunday School classes to help us afford this trip, we can't thank you enough. Coming up on February 9th is the Annual Youth Chili Cookoff. This is the event that raises the funds for us to go on a summer mission trip. Please look to the weekly notes for sign up! Also starting in February is CONFIRMATION!! We are so excited to kick off such a large class. Thank you for your continuing support for the Youth Ministry.

Blessings,

Casey

### YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Youth Sunday School- Sundays- 9:45-10:45

Study Hall- Wednesdays 3:30-5

Wednesday Night Dinners- 5:15 (make sure to RSVP)

Wednesday Night Rooted- 6-7

Youth Choir- Wednesdays- 7-8

Sunday Rooted– Feb 2nd



# FAMILY events

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES HAPPENINGS

We are off to a great start this year. We have had wonderful attendance in Sunday School and with Kids@Art. Please make plans to join us on February 5th after Wednesday Night Dinner for our Card Making Party and some sweet treats.

We will begin Vacation Bible School sign-ups in March, for both volunteers and attending children. Keep June 23rd-27th open so you can participate in all the fun we will be having all over campus.



## MISSIONS UPDATES (CONTINUED)

**Yaguaramas Cuba Church-** During 2024 Saint Paul's responded to the request of our sister church to provide funds for a free meal every Sunday for about 60 children in their village. We have also responded to the pastor's request for a form of transportation, and have collected donations from two Sunday School classes and several members to purchase an electric motor scooter for his ministry to those in the rural areas. One of our newer Saint Paul's members, David Steingart, will represent Saint Paul's for a week-long trip to Yagaramas along with others from the Florida Conference in February.

**School Backpacks-** Last summer Saint Paul's members responded to a direct appeal from Nick to bring in new backpacks loaded with school supplies to our church and 50 were given. These were distributed on the Southside by a neighborhood ministry. We plan to do this again.

**Elder Care** -Thanks to the generosity of our church we were able to bless our elderly neighbors who are in need with over 100 cooling fans and about 25 electric heaters.

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace-** Jerry Roney shared that we built and delivered 30 beds last fall and that there are still over 500 children in our area who need beds and are on the waiting list. We had a great bunk bed build on Nov. 16.



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Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
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www.saintpaulsumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### SUNDAYS AT SAINT PAUL'S

8:30am Worship  
9:45am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00am Worship  
6:00pm Contemporary Service

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Friday - Closed

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

### OUR STAFF AND EMAILS

#### Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven  
latricia@saintpaulsumc.org

#### Associate Pastor

Rev. MaryAnn Piccioni  
maryann@saintpaulsumc.org

#### Church Administrator

Linda Fletcher  
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#### Communications

Amy Leach  
amy@saintpaulsumc.org

#### Financial Assistant

Melissa Edelstein

#### Church Treasurer

Timothy Scott

#### Dir. Of Children & Family Ministries

Leslie Scott  
leslie@saintpaulsumc.org

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#### Youth Director

Casey Fernandes  
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#### Dir. Of Music & Worship Arts

Gaye Herndon  
gaye@saintpaulsumc.org

#### Adult Choirs Director

Cynthia Prescott  
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#### Kids@Art Choir Director

Stephany Nystrand  
stephanymusicthera-  
py@yahoo.com

#### Sexton

Jonathan Leach  
jonathan@saintpaulsumc.org

#### Website Administrator

WPTallahassee

#### Video Coordinator

Jay Wirth

#### OUR BISHOP

Rev. Tom Berlin

#### OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. Catherine Fluck-Price

#### OUR MISSIONARIES

Delbert & Sandy Groves,  
Zambia