



SAINT PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 12, 2019

Third Sunday after Easter

Esther: The Unseen Hand of God in Holy Conversation
Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

The mission of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to be a faithful community of disciples who serve as the heart, hands and feet of Christ so that all people come to know the love of God.

Sermon Notes

Esther: The Unseen Hand of God in Holy Conversations

Holy Conversations:

1. speak truth (to power)
2. reveal our best selves
3. preserve life
4. may be hidden; their purposes to be revealed later
5. forward the mission of God

Which conversations in the story of Esther can be categorized as Holy Conversations?

Which conversations might be considered to be unholy?

What Holy Conversations have you had in your life? Who were the participants in these conversations?



Print copies of Pastor Kandace's letter on Human Sexuality and General Conference are available in the Narthex and copies were given to Sunday School classes as well. On Wednesday nights in late May and June (May 29; June 12, 19, 26) Pastor Kandace is going to lead a class on **Human Sexuality and the Bible**, which will respectfully and thoughtfully look at all perspectives and interpretations, both affirming and non-affirming. All are invited to join in this study and discussion. Class will begin at 6:15 p.m., and materials will be provided.

MANY THANKS to all who supported Wednesday's International Missions Dinner and Auction. It was a huge success! Look for details in the June *Epistle*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Heather Martin on the birth of her daughter,
Audrey Ragen Martin, born May 1, 2019.
Grandparents are Angie and Alan Martin.

IN PRAYER AND SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of Horace Caton, who passed away May 6 in Tallahassee. Funeral services will be this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at Cullees on Timberlane Road.

Around Saint Paul's

MUSIC AT SAINT PAUL'S

Preschool and Toddler Music Groups meet on Wednesday afternoons from 5:30-5:55 p.m. in rooms 325/326. Please note the change in rooms. We'll be meeting in the sanctuary building during renovations.

SPARKS Choir will continue to meet in the Choir Room on Wednesdays from 4:15-5:15 p.m. Even if you haven't been involved in SPARKS previously, we invite you to join us for this special extended session. All children in grades K-5 are invited.

Youth Choir will rehearse this afternoon at 4:15 in the Choir Room. We'll sing for the 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship on May 19. We are grateful to all who participated in our Texas Roadhouse Drive-thru Dinner night!

Handbell Choir will NOT rehearse this evening. We're playing for the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on May 19. We'll warm-up at 8:00 a.m. that morning.

PLEASE NOTE - The Sanders Hall kitchen is now kept locked except on Sunday mornings. To use, please contact Stephanie Corry in the church office to get on the church calendar and check out a key.

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

TUESDAYS - *The Dream of You* led by MOPS moms Kathleen Lipson and Kelly Zorn. 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. every other Tuesday (alternating with Mommy & Me music days). Next class is May 14. Limited child care spots available with RSVP.

WEDNESDAYS - *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments Leave You Shattered* led by Malena Allison and Michelle Fugate. 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Child care provided.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN RUTH CIRCLE - The Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, May 14, at 11:00 a.m. for our annual May Luncheon. Bring a salad or dessert to share and join us for a time of good food and fellowship. Remember we are collecting "Thinking of You" cards to give to the residents at Miracle Hill Nursing Home. If you would like to sign the cards you can write a little note and then sign it "Ruth Circle, Saint Paul's United Methodist Church". For more information contact Peggy Harter, 878-1343.

GATHERING TO PRAY - God is answering prayer as we gather in His name. We invite everyone to join us to pray together for the concerns you share with us on the PRAYER REQUESTS cards in the pew, (please place them in the offering plates), or via email, david@saintpaulsumc.org, Wednesdays, 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. in the church office. God is with us!

SAINT PAUL'S IS CONSIDERING BECOMING A RECONCILING CHURCH. Don't know what that means? Then join us to discuss what radical inclusion looks like and how we can meet the goal that our congregation puts forward to be an inclusive church. We will have two Wednesday night educational/discussion sessions on May 15 and 22 from 6:15 - 7:30. Please join us as we understand how better to welcome all people to our Church. You can also check out <https://rmnetwork.org/> for some additional information. If your Sunday School class or committee would like to learn more please let Ian Collins, Cassie Griesheimer, or Barbara Block know.

PACESETTERS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON - Save the date! Thursday, May 16 at 11:30 a.m. with Reverend Dr. Latricia Scriven speaking on FAMU Wesley. This will be our last luncheon before the summer break, so don't miss it!

SOUL FOOD NEEDS - Our homeless neighbors at Lake Ella have requested disposable razors, small (hotel size) soaps and/or travel size shaving cream. Please place items in the Soul Food bin in room 308. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

Around Saint Paul's

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Dinner in Sanders Hall - 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Reservations due by midnight Monday by calling 385-5146 or online at saintpaulsumc.org. \$7 adults, \$3 ages 4 - 12.
May 15: Roasted Pork Loin

EXTREME HOSPITALITY - Please consider joining our Greeters Ministry as we make a greater effort for a warm reception to our 8:30 and 11:00 services. All that is required is to arrive 15 minutes early for worship, stand outside near one of the entrances, and offer a yellow gift bag with a smile to visitors. Please email peggy@saintpaulsumc.org with your interest, thank you!

REBUILD THE MOSAIC GARDEN - May 18, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Now that the water intrusion project is coming to an end, we are excited to rebuild our garden and get growing! We need LOTS of helping hands to move the concrete blocks, dirt and plants from the adjacent lot onto a trailer and back into place, and many hands make quick work. All the vegetables we grow are donated to Manna on Meridian, so your time is for a good cause. Snacks and coffee will be provided, so please bring your muscles, gloves, wheelbarrows, shovels, and a friend! Contact Cara at Cares4Creation@gmail.com with questions.

SENIOR CELEBRATION - On May 19 we will celebrate our high school seniors during the Sunday 11:00 a.m. worship service and will have food and fellowship during ROOTED for friends and family. If you know any seniors that attend our church, please have them reach out to Raymond so they can be celebrated as well. I, also, ask as a new idea for Senior Sunday that ALL those with a cap and gown please wear it to Sunday service!

INFANT & CHILD CPR CLASS - Beth Wilde invites those who might be interested in becoming certified or to just learn Infant & Child CPR. The class costs \$65 and will be held Monday, May 20, 6:00 p.m. in Room 327. Please contact Beth if you are interested at beth@saintpaulsumc.org.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTER NOW ONLINE

CHRISTMAS IN JULY ~ Love Came Down
July 15 - 19 and July 21 is VBS Sunday.

Adult and youth volunteers are requested to sign up online too.

This Week at Saint Paul's

Monday, May 13

11:00am Ed Wynn Luncheon/SH
5:00 pm Manna Bagging/Faith Presby.

Tuesday, May 14

9:30 am Women's Bible Study/310
10:00am Creation Care T-Shirt Bags/302
10:00am UMW Ruth Circle/200
6:15 pm Covenant Chancel Choir/CR
7:30 pm Se'lah/CR

Wednesday, May 15

8:00 am Prayer Group/WR
4:15 pm SPARKS Choir/CR
5:15 pm Dinner/SH
5:30 pm Preschool Music/325/326

Wednesday, May 15 cont.

6:15 pm Reconciling Church/SH
6:30 pm Knitting & Crochetiers/311

Thursday, May 16

9:30 am MOPS Playdate/326
11:30am Pacesetters Luncheon/SH
6:30 pm MESS Women's Group/Offsite

Friday, May 17

Church Office Closed

9:00 am Alzheimer's Respite/200/202/204

Saturday, May 18

8:00 am Manna on Meridian/Faith Presby.



As a Spirit-formed **living expression of the kingdom of God**, the vision of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to **glorify God** wholeheartedly, **grow** the community of the faithful, **nurture** the faithfulness of that community, **alleviate suffering** wherever it is found and **advocate** for **social justice**.

WELCOME, GUESTS!

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today. Nurseries for ages infant to five years are located in the lower level of the sanctuary building. One of our friendly ushers can give directions to restrooms.

AIDS FOR THE VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED

Are available from our ushers. Kindly return the large-print hymnal at the end of worship. We, also, have hearing loops for hearing aids with t-coil technology.

NAME TAGS

Name tags help us get to know one another better. They are located in the narthexes. If you need a name tag, please indicate on the attendance pad so we can make one for you. Please wear your name tag each week during worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A wide variety of adult Sunday School classes and age-appropriate classes for children and youth are offered at 9:45. For details, visit the information table in Sanders Hall or call our office.

INTERESTED IN JOINING SAINT PAUL'S?

If you are interested in becoming a member of Saint Paul's, please indicate so on the attendance pad. We will set a date for you to be received with joy!

Financial Snapshot				
Expenses to date:	\$322,363.00	Average weekly expenses (2018): \$18,269.00		
Income to date:	\$308,643.00			
Actual Income:	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
	\$21,173.00			
May 5 attendance: 8:30: 92 11:00: 179 Sunday School: 159				

We encourage you to give on-line - No wallet required! It's fast, safe, and secure. Use your phone's camera and hover over the image - to go directly to the webpage for online giving.



Saint Paul's Staff

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks, Senior Pastor
 Rev. David Gill, Pastor of Congregational Care

Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs
 Gaye Herndon, Music Performance Associate

Jill Merryday, Director of Children's Ministries
 Peggy Benton, Ministry Coordinator
 Kambea Chan, Children's Ministry Assistant

Laurie Batten, Church Administrator
 Linda Fletcher, Publishing Specialist
 Stephanie Corry, Facilities Coordinator
 Raymond Pandley, II, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
 Simon Webb, Lead Sexton
 Odis Williams, Assistant Sexton
 Betsy Gingery, Kitchen Coordinator
 Beth Wilde, Nursery Coordinator