FEBRUARY 2020

O SAINT UNITED METRO



Dear Friends:

A few things to share with you as we continue into 2020.

Strategic Planning Team: Many thanks to all who participated in the FOCUS GROUP listening sessions. It was helpful for our team to hear your voices in small groups as you discussed the future of Saint Paul's UMC. During February and March the Strategic Planning Team will be meeting to find trends and patterns in your discussions and how those might affect our work moving forward.

Making Room: The work on our renovation project is nearing completion (the major task remaining is to install the chapel door and automatic opener). Many of you have asked where we stand financially with this project. Here are our numbers thus far:

Current contributions: \$457,691.57

Current expenses for construction and related costs: \$811,088.01

Financial Status: The financial books have been closed on 2019, and unfortunately, we finished the year with a deficit of approximately \$38,000. The Governing Board is taking a hard look at our operating budget for 2020 and discussing ways that we can bring our budget more in line with our actual expenses. This will be difficult work and your prayers are asked for the decisions that will be made.

This is a good time to remind the congregation that the Governing Board is the administrative leadership team of the church. Governing Board meetings (with the exception of personnel discussions) are open to the congregation and are always advertised in worship and on the church calendar. A summary of Governing Board actions is communicated in the Epistle. The February Governing Board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2020 in Room 301.

Lent Plans: The season of Lent begins at the end of this month with Ash Wednesday being February 26. We will be offering two evening classes during Lent, along with our early morning chapel services at 6:30 a.m. Take a look at the back page of this issue of the Epistle for more information about our Lent activities.

Daily Bible Reading Plan: This year, our Daily Bible Reading is taking us through various books of scripture as we seek to find what image, what word, or what question the reading evokes in us. You may subscribe to receive the Daily Bible Reading each morning via email, or you can find it daily on the Saint Paul's UMC Facebook page. Jump in anytime and read with us!

Kandace

Governing Board 2020

The following individuals will be serving Saint Paul's UMC as part of the Governing Board for 2020. Please keep them in your daily prayers as they seek to lead the church with wisdom and discernment.

Lay Leader

Ryan Kline (2020)

SPRC

John Apthorp (2022) Ross Moret (2021) Nena Martinez (2020) Laura Tully (2020)

Finance

Carrie Holmes (2022) Dennis Lee (2021) Barb Bauldree (2020)

Trustees

Don Griesheimer (2022) Tiffany McNabb (2021) Ed Holmes (2020)

At Large

Barbara Block (2020) Margaret Hardee (2020) Aimee Wirth (2022) Andrew Fischer (2021) Kambea Chan (2021) Jim McConnaughhay (2022)

Recording Secretary

Angela Perry (2021)

Governing Board meets on the last Monday of each month and meetings are open to the congregation to attend, with the exception of any staffing/personnel discussions.

FEBRUARVENTS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Our speaker will be Deborah Moore, circuit director for Guardian Ad Litem. All women of the church are invited.

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 Room 325. God is with us!

WEDNESDAY MENU FOR FEBRUARY

2/5 - Pot Roast 2/12 - Cheese Ravioli 2/19 - Chicken Pot Pie 2/26 - International—France

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH & LEARN

Thursday, February 20, at 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Warner Sachs on the history of the Florida Capital, including the preservation of the original brick building. Our chef will be serving smothered pork chops with scalloped potatoes for \$7. Please RSVP by calling the office by Tuesday, February 18.

NOVEL CHATS

Thursday, February 27, 10:00 a.m. Saint Paul's Book Club meets in the Chapel. Members read the same book and meet to hear a review by Hazel Rosser, followed by a discussion by the whole group. This month's book is *Send the Rain* by Charlie Martin. Everyone is welcome.

COME JOIN THE CHOIR

Covenant Chancel Choir meets Tuesdays from 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 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 Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. This group sings once a month in the morning worship services and gives an annual concert. For more information, email Cynthia Prescott at prescottc1360@gmail.com

"METHODISTS UNITED IN PRAYER" IN CUBA AND FLORIDA

Since 1997, our Florida Annual Conference has been united in prayer with the Methodist Church in Cuba. Then there were 192 Cuban local churches, but now there are more than 450! Revival has been happening for 22 years. Saint Paul's UM Church has been united in prayer with the Methodist Church in Yaguaramas, Cuba. In addition to prayer, Saint Paul's contributed most of the funds to construct a new sanctuary in 2013 and we are contributing to the construction of their new parsonage. Their pastors, Rev. Isacc and Tania Isayde, visited Saint Paul's in November. David Gill is going with others from the Florida Conference to represent our church in visits to Yaguaramas church and their district conference February 6-13.

He would love to have a collection from Saint Paul's Church to present to our sister church. Here is a list of suggested items:

- Cards and letters of encouragement (place in the box under the church model in our narthex)
- Crayons, colored pencils
- Coloring books
- Pencils and erasers
- Cards and games
- Small cars
- Cash for Cuban pastors to purchase Spanish Bibles
- Bible stories in Spanish

Please bring any of the above items to send to Cuba with David by Sunday, February 2 . On that day we will pray for those traveling to Cuba and for the gifts to bless the people in Cuba who will receive them.

CREATION



CLIMATE JUSTICE CLASS

Join the Climate Justice Class in February. Wednesday nights, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Room 310. We've just begun the Climate Justice class and you are invited to join the Creation Care team as we learn how Christians all over the world are responding to the climate crisis. We will share eco-tips each class to help equip you to be a better steward of God's earth. Sign up on the church web site.

FAITH FOR FUTURE

Fridays at the Old Capitol between 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join Tallahassee Green Faith Alliance at the Old Capitol on Fridays as we stand with young environmental leaders at the Fridays for Future rally to advocate for climate justice. Bring a sign or make one there. See the Creation Care Facebook page for the rally schedule or email <u>Cares4Creation@gmail.com</u>.



FEBRUARY ECO-TIP Show You Care with Sustainable Chocolate this Valentines Day

Chocolate is a great way to treat your sweetheart, but did you know that a lot of the chocolate we eat is causing deforestation and is made with unfair trade practices? This year before you buy, find out what companies chose sustainable methods to make their chocolate. These brands are winners:

- Dove Chocolate (owned by MARS) works with their cocoa farmers to help them have sustainable lives and livelihoods.
- Green & Black's chocolates are organic and free trade.
- Newman's Own Organic is Rain Forest Alliance certified and makes chocolate bars and chocolate cups (filled with yummy peanut butter and caramel).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Anne Ashcroft, Carter Perry, Magdalene Waltz
- 2 Mary Jo Batailles, Kristie Jo Manis, Mary Maude Sharpe, Faye Taylor
- 3 Carina Dunlap, Stacy Joiner, Ryan Kline, Alan Raynor
- 5 Jeb Bodiford
- 6 Kathie Marsh
- 7 George Apthorp, Laurie Batten, Karena Perry, William Perry
- 8 Karen James, Lydia Neel, Joe Taranto
- 9 Alexander Taylor
- 10 Marilyn Lowe, Mary Roberts
- 11 Brenda Dawes, Trinh Jones, Campbell Pernell, Karen Randolph
- 13 David Beverly, Izzy Chan, Jan Cuddington, Noah Dobson, Mark Trammell
- 14 Sandra Harvey
- 15 Chris Morris
- 16 Bill Knight
- 17 Iris Santana, Leni Schrader
- 18 Charlie Field V
- 19 Lilly McDermott
- 20 Olga Martin, Mary Pat Peacock Betty Lou Rogers
- 21 Scott Baumgardner, Irving Felker, Leighanne Mortimer
- 22 Babs Powell, Judy Ray
- 23 Linda Brinkley, Corrie Padgett, Carol Swing, Doug Williams
- 25 Mary Ann Brown, Pam Dunn
- 26 Wyatt Beekman, Aiden Petty Michael Sieg
- 27 Judy Galloway, Eden Hatfield
- Julianna Coughlin, Susan Fristoe, Brayden Ward



RECAP ON OUR WINTER YOUTH RETREAT!

We took the youth on a retreat in January to Blue Lake UM Camp in Alabama. Our Theme was "Pause" and we talked about the importance of taking intentional time to spend in prayer and Bible study in order to grow in our faith, in our relationship with God, and in our ability to follow Christ more closely.

We wanted to share some photos of our trip with you. We had so much fun, and we can't wait to do it again.





SUNDAY EVENTS

9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School in room 211

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir in the Choir Room

5:15 p.m. ROOTED Sunday Nights
Dinner, games, and community. Sanders Hall. Pickup is at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Chili Cook-Off February 2 - One of our biggest events of the year! Bring the cowboy hats and bring an appetite! Many chilis will be entered, but only a select few will reign supreme. Help decide who makes the best chili this side of the Mississippi. Entry is \$5. If you would like to enter a chili into the cook-off sign up at https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/c15b71. We will need all hands on deck for this event as this is the major fundraiser for the summer mission trip.

*NO ROOTED on February 2

Operation Worship February 16 - For 2020 we have started dedicating some of our youth time to focus on worship. Instead of our normal Rooted Sunday Night, we will join FSU Wesley for dinner and Sunday worship! We will meet at the church at our normal youth time at 5:15 p.m., take the bus to FSU Wesley, and return by 9:00 p.m.

Lighting the Way Kick Off Party February 23 - Our Creation Care Ministry has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from United Methodist Earth Keepers in a effort to dive deeper into creation care education and build meaningful relationships. The project is in partnership with FAMU Wesley, which is Raymond's campus ministry! We are so excited to collaborate with FAMU Wesley to learn about how to take care of God's planet. The kickoff party will be February 23 from 5:15 - 7:00 p.m. at SPUMC.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner February 25 - Come join us as we raise money to send people to Music Camp this summer at our Pancake Dinner. It starts at 5:30 p.m. in Sanders Hall. The cost is \$7.



PEACE BY PIECE: MOSAIC ART WITH A PURPOSE

Pastor Kandace has been given permission and a small grant to create a large community mosaic mural that will be placed on the retaining wall of Canterfield Assisted Living. The image will be comprised of several hundred mosaic leaves that will form a tree. This ongoing project will involve community groups and schools, along with church members. See the back page of this edition of the EPISTLE for more information about how you can participate during the season of Lent!



Handbell Choir - Members of the Handbell Choir will be participating in the area Winter Ring, on the weekend of February 7-8. The six participating choirs will present a concert to close the festival at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, at Thomasville Road Baptist Church. You are invited to attend.

Youth Choir - Our Youth Choir rehearses Sunday afternoons from 4:30-5:15, and we invite all youth in grades 6-12 to join us. We'll be singing for worship services in the coming months and are making plans to attend Music Camp 2020, June 7-12, at the LEC in Fruitland Park.

Saint Paul's Dancers - Our ministry for young dancers who have had some training will be working toward several performances in the coming months. They rehearse on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. Contact Stephany Nystrand (stephanymusictherapy@vahoo.com)

Worship Band - The Worship Band leads the 8:30 a.m. worship service periodically and rehearses as needed to accommodate the schedules of the band members. We present music in a wide variety of styles including contemporary Christian songs, restyled classic hymns, praise songs, occasional bluegrass, and other appropriate styles. Instrumentation includes acoustic and/or electric guitars, bass, keyboard, percussion, banjo, violin, and vocalists. We welcome musicians from young to mature adults. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, contact Gaye Herndon: gaye@saintpaulsumc.org.

Preschool and Toddler Music Group - Our church's Children's and Music Ministries offer a unique opportunity for your young children. Developmentally appropriate music groups meet on Wednesday afternoons from 5:30-5:55. The under age 3 group is for toddlers and their caregivers and is led by Stephany Nystrand. The Pre K3-4 year old group meets separately in the Music Room of the Children's Ministry wing and is led by Gaye Herndon. We invite you to join us! (Contact gaye@saintpaulsumc.org for more information.)

SPARKS Choir for grades K-5 meets in conjunction with our Wednesday afternoon Children's Ministry after-school program. We're working on our Spring musical, "Heroes of the Faith." (Contact Stephany Nystrand: stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com or Jill Merryday: jill@saintpaulsumc.org)



MANNA ON MERIDIAN

Bagging for Manna Monday, February 10, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Distribution Saturday, February 15, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Both at Faith Presbyterian. Contact Charles Hubbard, chazhub55@gmail.com.

Bring your donations the first two weeks of every month. Saint Paul's focuses on cereal and peanut butter donations. Last year our church donated 600 bags of groceries affecting 1800 people!

SOUL FOOD

Bagging: Wednesday, February 26 - 10:30 a.m. Distribution: Saturday, February 29 - 9:30 a.m.

Toiletry item donations needed in February: Toothpaste. During cold weather months, Soul Food requests donations of new or used coats, jackets, blankets, sleeping bags, warm hats, gloves, socks and pop top cans of hearty food such as chunky soups, beef stew or pasta dishes. Bring donations to room 308 and place into Soul Food bins. Thank you for caring about our homeless friends! Contact Jo Ellen Brown at brown.joellen@gmail.com for information.

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU, Saint Paul's congregation! Our goal for giving in 2019 was \$5,700.00. You generously gave \$10,419.88. This includes noisy change, Christmas gift cards, donations honoring or in memory of loved ones and gifts for birthdays and anniversaries for those who seem to already have everything. All contributions are greatly appreciated for this wonderful mission to children in need. Our first Fifth Sunday in 2020 will be March 29. Our goal is \$12.00/member per year. Our church family is amazing!

Janet Clark, Children's Home Representative



SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR ~ 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School every week from 9:45-10:45 in our new Children's Rooms on the 100 level. Bring your kids for an age appropriate class and yummy snacks! Stop by the welcome table inside Sanders Hall if you need help finding the class or maybe even a new adult class to join.

SPARKS WEDNESDAY

Our afterschool group of K-5th graders meets **Wednesday afternoons** from **3:00** - **5:30 p.m.** for fun, friends, and faith. We have a mini-VBS every Wednesday! Join us this semester as we learn about the Heroes of the Faith and prepare for our Spring Musical (on April 29), do some cool science experiments, and explore art! Contact Jill for more info!

MOPS IN FEBRUARY

Join MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Thursdays, February 13 and 27, from 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. Our first meeting on February 13 will be GALENTINE'S DAY FUN! Playdates and MOMS Night Out will be planned too! Consider joining the MOPS group if you have a newborn through a kindergarten age child!

UPCOMING DATE NIGHTS IN 2020

February 22, March 21, and **April 18, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Please register online at the beginning of each month. Enjoy four hours to rejuvenate and refresh away from the kids! RSVP on the website under Children's Ministry.

SAVE THE DATES! Summer 2020

Registration opens February 15! Extreme Explorers Week, June 1-5 Warren Willis Camp, TBD Vacation Bible School, June 29 - July 2

MOMMY & ME MUSIC TUESDAYS

A time for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and the mommies who love them to come together and play together musically. This music class targets developmental milestones through singing, chanting, instrument playing, signing, and movement. Class is led by Stephany Nystrand, a board-certified music therapist. For more information contact Jill Merryday, Director of Children's Ministries, in the church office. Classes will be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings, 9:30-10:30 a.m., **February 4 and 18**.

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

IN PRAYER AND SYMPATHY

For the family and friends of Daisy Ward, who passed away January 2 in Tallahassee.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Paul and Julia Woodward on the birth of their son, Mark Leon Woodward.

Proud grandparents are David and Susan Gill and proud great-grandparents are Frances and John Stiles.

THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED IN JANUARY

To Members, Pastors and Staff,

From the Glory of God. For everything you have done for me, everything you have given me, I thank you. You are appreciated.

Peace, Simon Webb

CONGREGATIONAL

One of the things the Bible makes clear is that we are all called to ministry. Ministry is not something that we pay a select few to do for us. Following Christ means that each of us are called to care for others, to pray for one another, to visit and be in community with one another. In short, we are called to LOVE one another, and to serve one another with the gifts and talents we have been given. God calls us to do these things, but we don't always know how, or if we are doing it right. Let me suggest a few ways that you may consider for growing in your service of others:

At Saint Paul's, we have an active prayer team that meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. to pray for the needs of our church community. Anyone may join us for this ministry. This team publishes the prayer list in the Weekly Notes and in the EPISTLE so that others may be in prayer for people during the week, and it sends out cards to give encouragement.

We also have a team that cooks and freezes meals and takes them to people who are ill or grieving. They make cookies and deliver them to our homebound members at Christmas. That team meets the first Monday of every month.

During the season of Lent, I will be offering a class on Wednesday evenings (starting March 4) called "The Caring Congregation." This class will cover both the why and the how of providing care, and will be practical and hands-on for those who would like to become more skilled at caring for others. We will learn how to pray out loud for others, how to visit with people who are ill or experiencing certain hardships, what to say (or what not to say) to those who are grieving, how to maintain safety and boundaries in home visits, how to serve communion, and other helpful guidance for how to serve those in need.

This class is for everyone, and if you attend there is no obligation to join our Congregational Care team. However, it is my hope that some will feel called to form a visitation team as part of our congregational care team, so that our ill and homebound members are visited with more frequency. If you are interested in being a part of that team, let me know. Sign up for the Lenten class, and together may we serve as the heart, hands, and feet of Christ.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Becky Rokitowski, Associate Pastor

CARE LIST

SHORT TERM: Carolyn Adams, the Andrews family welcoming a new baby, Bonnie Bevis, Kathy Barber, Ron and Mary Ann Braswell, Kailee and Kandace Brooks, Yvonne Brownlie, Daniel Doxsee, Gayle Fisher, Virginia Fletcher, Rev. Durwood Foshee, JD Godbold, Charlie and Meg Guyton, Bruce Harter, Parker and Charlotte Keaton, Beverly Kinloch, Rev. Bob Laidlaw, Carol Lee, Barb Lithicum, Kelsie Merritt, Jan Mickler, Hazel Oliver, Donna Peacock & family, George Potter, Susie Shoemaker, family of Daisy Ward, Carolyn White, the Woodward family welcoming a new baby, Ruth Ann Wynn, Carolyn Young, George Zirps

LONG TERM: David Beverly, Betty Blair, Terry and Carol Broadway, Edna Brownlie, 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, Helen Keaton, Robert Kennedy, Ralph Kenyon, Nena Martinez's mother, Dottie Melton, Ruth Riley, Dot Roberts, Gretchen Scoggin, Terry Shoffstall, Ben and Betty Spivey, Norma and Pam Strickland, Dick and Doris Sublette, Melanie Tredik, Soisson Church, Haiti and Yagauramas Methodist Church, Cuba.

OUR STAFF AND EMAILS

Senior Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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SPARKS Choir Director

Stephany Nystrand

Kitchen Coordinator

Betsy Gingery

Children's Ministries Assistant

Kambea Chan

Sexton

Simon Webb

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





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 **f** at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch



Lent 2020 activities

Wednesday, February 26: Ash Wednesday

6:30 a.m. chapel service 7:00 p.m. sanctuary service

Wednesday Morning Devotionals: 6:30 a.m. chapel

We will be using scripture, image and the poetry of Wendell Berry and Mary Oliver, to shape our morning chapel communion services.

Classes: Wednesdays @ 6:15 p.m. Starts March 4

The Caring Congregation

Rev. Becky Rokitowski

Peace by Piece

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

*this is a weekly meditation on peace and reconciliation, along with some fun and simple mosaic work for a large community installation; come once or every week!

Lent Sermon Series

Flawed and Faithful: Finding Ourselves in the Story of David.