

the EPISTLE



In this issue, you find out about events happening at Saint Paul's during August and September!

Wednesday Nights at Saint Paul's

 Preschool Music 5:10-5:30	 Adult Classes 6:00-7:00
 Dinner 5:15-6:00	 Youth Rooted 6:00-7:00
 Kids@Art 6:00-7:00	 Youth Choir 7:00-7:45

Wednesday Nights resume on August 19th

Finance Committee Update

We are grateful to share another positive financial update with our Saint Paul's family. Through June, general church receipts totaled approximately **\$511,000**, while general church expenses were approximately **\$447,000**, resulting in a positive balance of about **\$64,000**. After accounting for the preschool, whose expenses exceeded income by approximately **\$15,000**, the church's net positive position is approximately **\$49,000**. While these numbers are encouraging, we'd like to provide a little additional context. Our current financial position includes a generous gift from **Good Samaritan**, the church that recently joined our Saint Paul's family. Much of those funds have been designated for specific projects and ministry needs as they transition into their new church home, including \$30,000 designated for general operating expenses so this will be a non-recurring source of income. We are incredibly thankful for this blessing and look forward to seeing the impact those gifts will have in the months ahead.

We also continue to make progress on our **Making Room** campaign. As of **June 30**, the remaining loan balance is **\$721,030.31**. Thank you to everyone who has faithfully contributed toward reducing this debt and investing in the future of our church.

One area where we would especially appreciate your prayers and support is our **Benevolence Fund**, which is currently at **zero** after helping meet significant needs in our community. This fund allows us to respond when individuals and families need assistance, reflecting Christ's love in practical ways. If supporting neighbors in need is something God has placed on your heart, gifts designated to the Benevolence Fund would make an immediate difference.

Most importantly, thank you. Your faithful giving allows Saint Paul's to worship, grow, serve, share and give with JOY! Whether your heart is drawn to our general ministry, the Making Room campaign, the Benevolence Fund, missions, music, children, youth, or another area of ministry, every gift is an act of worship that helps further God's work through this church. Thank you for your continued generosity, your faithful stewardship, and your partnership in all that God is doing at Saint Paul's.

CREATION *care*

Mosaic Garden Update

Our summer tomato crop is doing its best to produce in spite of Mother Nature alternating between heavy rain and drought conditions. Brown bags of tomatoes, peppers, and basil were donated to Manna on Meridian and to Grace Mission.

Volunteers relocated the native plant garden next to the chapel entrance early one hot and humid Saturday morning in June through their hard labor. Thanks so much to those who donated your time and effort.

Photo caption ideas: Dale Nute and Jessie Perry in the garden, organic tomatoes and veggies grown at Saint Paul's and bagged up for distribution at the Manna on Meridian Food Bank, sunflowers and native plants support our local habitat.

Fall Gardening in Tallahassee: The Best Time to Grow Vegetables

While much of the country is winding down its gardening season, North Florida gardeners are just getting started. Fall is one of the best times to grow vegetables in Tallahassee, thanks to cooler temperatures, fewer insect pests, and plenty of sunshine.

August is the time to start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kale, collards, and lettuce. Direct sow carrots, beets, bush beans, cucumbers, and summer squash while the soil is still warm. By September, continue planting leafy greens such as spinach, arugula, mustard greens, Swiss chard, and additional lettuce. Radishes, turnips, and peas can also be sown throughout September and into October.

For a successful fall garden, enrich your soil with compost, water regularly during hot late-summer weather, and apply mulch to help retain moisture and keep roots cool. As temperatures begin to drop, your vegetables will thrive and often develop even sweeter, richer flavors.

Whether you have a large backyard, raised beds, or a few containers on a patio, fall is the perfect season to grow fresh, healthy produce. With a little planning now, you'll be harvesting crisp salads, hearty greens, and colorful root vegetables well into the cooler months.

SAVE THE DATE - Save our Shores Lake Ella Clean Up, Sept 19, 9-11 am
Meet at the Outdoor Chapel next to Lake Ella.



AUG-SEPT events

SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Saint Paul's has a long history of a Sunday evening worship service. Over the years it has looked different-different leaders, worship styles and music. So what is happening at Sunday evening worship these days? The evening service at 6 pm is called "Reconciled". The word "Reconciled" has deep biblical meaning. To be reconciled is to be restored by God's grace to a right relationship with God, and then called to participate in God's work of restoring relationships and healing the world.

This service takes place in Sanders Hall and everyone is welcome. The music is different from our morning services and includes piano, guitar and drums. It is more contemporary praise and worship songs led by one person or a small group. Different lay people take turns as liturgists and leading the order of worship. Pastor Carolyn usually preaches the same sermon that is preached in morning worship. Occasionally a lay person preaches. Each Sunday communion is offered. Some Sundays there is "Sunday Digest" where everyone is invited to meet at a local restaurant following worship for fellowship and dinner.

You may remember that the old Good Samaritan UMC that closed several years ago was meeting in Sanders Hall on Sunday evenings. The Reconciled service today includes some of those folks plus others that have joined from the community and a few long-time Saint Paul's folks. It is a small group right now and is always open to welcoming anyone that would like to join. In fact, if you regularly attend Sunday morning and miss it for some reason you have the option of attending the evening service and hearing the same message.

So, what happened to the Good Samaritan folks after we voted for them to merge with Saint Paul's? In May, we had 46 people transfer their membership from Good Samaritan to Saint Paul's at a service of welcome. In addition to those folks, this past Sunday we welcomed Pam Garrett and her son Drew Owen into membership.

What a blessing it is to have three opportunities to worship at Saint Paul's on Sundays in addition to all the other ministry that happens throughout the week!

MEN'S READING GROUP

RESUMES ON AUGUST 11TH

All men are invited to join us in the Men's Reading Community which meets Tuesdays at noon to discuss a book together at Ology Brewing Northside, 2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy, Unit 8. For more information contact David Gill, davidmurraygill@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NEXT MEETING- SEPTEMBER 8TH

"Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. We believe love in action can change the world." These words come from the national United Women in Faith website, and they accurately describe the mission of the Saint Paul's unit of United Women in Faith.

All ladies of the church are invited and encouraged to come and enjoy faith, fellowship, fun...oh, and food! United Women in Faith meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning at 10:00, in Sanders Hall. After a brief summer hiatus, we will resume meetings on September 8. We invite and encourage you to come and see what UWF is all about. In addition to making new friends, you'll have the chance to learn about organizations, projects, and events that impact the lives of many in our community. We are proud that the funds generated from our annual summer spaghetti dinner/auction allow us to financially support many of these organizations.

We hope the ladies in our church are eager to be a part of this amazing group. Please contact Erma Sever, ermasever@comcast.net, or 850-510-5807, with any questions, or to be added to our email group to receive information on upcoming meetings and events.

MISSION ministries

MANNA ON MERIDIAN

Manna on Meridian has our big monthly distributions the third Saturday of every month from 8-9:30 at the Manna building behind Faith Presbyterian's main building. These are our largest distributions and during them we typically serve around 300 families!

The upcoming dates for the Saturday distributions are:

- August 15th
- September 19th

If you are interesting in helping us serve our neighbors you can:

- reach out to Kevin Scott (kevingscott@yahoo.com) to learn more about volunteer opportunities
- leave donations of canned soup, boxes of cereal or other shelf-stable food items either in the marked bins outside Sanders Hall (towards the bathrooms) or at the church office

Your continued support is having a great impact in our community. Thank you for all the donations and all the folks who volunteer to help keep this ministry running!

JUSTICE IMPACTED MISSION

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church Justice Impacted Mission is working to emphasize the importance of being present and aware. It is essential to understand that harm by a criminal act is harm to everyone in the community, and that there are different ways to address that harm.

Knowing that there are alternatives to the existing legal system that are more beneficial to the community. Realizing that current immigration policies are biasedly enforced based on the color of a person's skin. Recognizing the importance of reentry programs for our returning citizens in a system stacked against them. Understanding that there are organizations and programs that work to improve social justice by bringing together those with differing opinions. Seeing that disrupting the circle of trauma can create miracles in a person's life. These are straight forward points that can make a big difference! Thanks to Jim Geiger and the forward-thinking Cheers Sunday School Class, these concepts will be addressed over the five Sundays in August, in Sanders Hall during the Sunday School time period. Please plan now to come and be a part of the broadening awareness of what Justice Impacted really means.

Thank you,

Julie and Michael McBride

RESIDING HOPE

Sunday, August 30th will be a special day. Elizabeth Gadd MNM, CFRE, the Chief Development Officer for Residing Hope will be a guest speaker and presenter during the Sunday School hour in Sanders Hall. She will share pictures, stories about the children and news about happenings at the Enterprise and Madison locations. She will also share briefly during the Worship hour. It will be a great time of learning and watching our children collect the noisy offering. Your investment in our children is life changing. It's more than their next meal; you're providing these children with therapy, education, clothing, and other necessities for a happy and healthy life. You're also providing children with the opportunity to grow in their faith, which is critical for their healing process. Saint Paul's is a connectional ministry with the Florida Annual Conference which has enabled us to serve children in need for 118 years. It is an honor to walk alongside with pastors and church congregations in this ministry. Since churches remain a vital means of our financial support, we ask that you honor the 5th Sunday Offering August 30th. Thank you for the profound impact you are making on young lives.

NEW MISSIONARY

Charissa Ann Jaeger-Sanders, raised among us in our congregation Charissa has earned PhD & has become a United Methodist Global Missionary, soon Harissa & her husband Rev Chris Sanders are moving to Costa Rica, where she will be teaching at Methodist theology at the university in San Jose. She needs our prayers & financial support. Charissa is a deacon in the Florida Conference.

MUSIC

at Saint Paul's

MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT PAUL'S

August begins a new choir season! We have a place for you!

Preschool Music Group (for ages 2-4): will be meeting from 5:10-5:30 on Wednesday afternoons beginning August 19. This is a developmentally appropriate music program for children ages 2-4 which incorporates singing, playing instruments, and movement, setting the foundation for building our future worship leaders. Contact Gaye Herndon (gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

Kids@Art (Children's Worship Arts Program for Grades K-5): Our children's worship arts-based program will start our new season on Wednesday, August 19. We will be meeting on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., immediately following Wednesday Night Dinners. All children, grades K-5, are invited to join us for Children's Choir, instrument playing, drama, sacred dance and movement, visual arts, and more. (Contact Stephany Nystrand: stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com)

Youth Choir: will be leading the 9:30 a.m. Service of Worship on Sunday, August 16, Youth Sunday. Our Youth will be giving testimonies about their Music Camp, Warren Willis Camp and Mission Week experiences, and the Youth Choir will be singing and leading the congregational songs. We will be resuming our regular rehearsal schedule on August 19, and invite all who are in Grades 6-12 to join us. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:45, in the Music Room (200) of the Children's Wing. We prepare choral music to help lead our congregation in worship and take an annual trip to MUSIC CAMP! (Contact Gaye Herndon: gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

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. After taking a break in July, they will resume their regular Tuesday evening, 6:15-7:15 p.m., rehearsal schedule in the choir room on August 11. A nursery/childcare is provided. If members want to sit with their families during worship, they leave the choir loft after the anthem. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director: prescottc1360@gmail.com

Se'lah: is an ensemble of adults who love to praise God through song but can't commit to singing in worship every Sunday. This group rehearses Tuesday evenings, 7:30-8:30, 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 the Covenant Chancel Choir for special occasions. Regular weekly rehearsals resume on August 11, 7:30-8:30 p.m. A nursery/childcare is provided. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director: prescottc1360@gmail.com

Handbell Choir: will resume rehearsals on Sunday, August 16, from 5:45-6:45. We play for our morning worship services approximately once a month during the school year, participate in music ministry seasonal offerings, and participate in community handbell events (Ring in the Season and WinterRing) Basic music reading skills are required for participation in this choir. (Contact Gaye Herndon: gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

Instrumental and Choral Ensembles: are offered according to the particular gifts and talents of our members. Please let one of our music staff know if you're interested in these types of music ministry.

A Celebration of Music Ministry: on Sunday, September 27, all of our performing choirs will lead the congregation in worship through music and the Word as we give praise to our God and celebrate our outstanding Music Ministry at the 8:30 and 11:00am services.

WEDNESDAY

nights

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Wednesday Night Classes will begin on August 19th. We are excited to be offering a session of Disciple Fast Track as well as other offerings. Please see Weekly Notes to sign up for classes. The Disciple class will from 5:45-7:15 and all other classes will be from 6:00-7:00.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Wednesday Dinners will resume on August 19th. Dinner begins at 5:15. Adults eat for \$8 and kids 10 and under are \$4. Reservations are required and need to be in each week by Mondays at noon.

To sign up for dinners— A sign up link can be found in Weekly Notes and you can also use the pew pads on Sunday mornings to rsvp for the current week.

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, our youth group will be preparing the meal. Proceeds from these dinners will go towards supporting our youth program. The first dinner cooked by our youth will be in September.

YOUTH

rooted

As I write this Epistle submission I am in my makeshift office at Warren Willis Camp with our amazing youth. I find myself reflecting on what an incredible summer we have had so far, and looking forward to the start of the new school year. One of my favorite parts of youth ministry is watching them grow in their friendships, confidence, and faith.

Over the past few months we have worshiped, served, traveled, laughed, shared many meals, and grown together. I have been reminded again and again that God is at work in the lives of our youth. While the trips and activities are fun, the moments I treasure most are the ones where I see them encouraging each other, praying, stepping out in faith, serving others, and discovering more about who God has called them to be. I am especially grateful for Eli and the time he spent serving with our youth this summer. His enthusiasm, intelligence, and genuine care for our youth are a blessing to our ministry. Eli has been an amazing example to these kids of how to live your life with Christ. We want to thank Eli for investing his time, energy, and faith into our group. We are grateful for the impact he has made and we'll miss him. We know God has big plans for him in the future.

As we turn toward a new school year, I am excited for what lies ahead. August 16th we will celebrate Youth Sunday. This is a special service where our youth lead worship and share their transformative moments throughout the summer. I am so proud and humbled by the support from our congregation. Thank you for helping create a place where our youth know they are loved, valued, and encouraged to follow Christ. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us this fall.

With Love,
Casey Fernandes



FAMILY *events*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Extreme Explorers Recap

This year the Extreme Explorers took on a new challenge: the afternoon. We extended our day from 9AM to 5PM so we could hang out with our friends a little more. Each day we went on an adventure, came back to eat our lunch, and then made something! We went from the wilds of Pancea, where we caught tiny crabs and petted rays to counting alligators at Wakulla Springs. (We hit the low thirties on our boat trip up and back on the river.) We made eye-spy bottles and Super Mario levels. We even designed our own zoo and made a mini-golf course. There was so much creativity and excitement in the room, we often didn't want to go home! It was so much fun getting to know all these kids better and seeing all their great ideas come to life.

Postcards From the Road was a Hit!

VBS this year was all about a road trip with God. We learned that even when we face detours or sometimes are unprepared, God is with us on the Journey. Over the week, we traveled all over Route 66, visiting Chicago, St. Louis, the Painted Desert, and even the Grand Canyon. Every place we went, we learned stories about how God helped travelers to go where he led them. We reached over 100 families, between attendees and volunteers, who helped us pull this thing off. Children ate great road trip snacks, made personalized license plates, played fun games, and learned amazing science facts. They also put on the most spectacular final performance, featuring singing, dancing, marching, drumming, and boomwhackers! Overall, it was a great week, and I can't wait to do it all again next year. Thank you so much for all your giving that has allowed us to do this important outreach into our community!

Upcoming Children's Ministry Events

We are looking forward to a great year as school begins again. First, we hope to send our kids off with a covering of prayer over them with our Blessing of the Backpacks. It will be at our 9:30 service on August 9th. Kids (and kids at heart) are encouraged to bring their backpacks with them for us to pray over. On that same day, our rising third graders will be receiving their Bibles. If you have a rising third grader, make sure they are there to receive their special bible.

After we get into the swing of things with Kids@Art and Preschool Music, starting August 19th, we are happy to offer Date Night in September, on the 19th, and PlayDay on the 26th. Date Night is for all ages 1-11 from 5-8 pm. PlayDay is for K-5th graders from 1-5 pm. We will be working on a LEGO theme this time, and I expect it to be a ton of fun. Sign-ups for both of these will be available soon, so keep an eye out.

Finally, as the weather turns cooler in October, we will be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat, complete with coveted prizes for "best-in" various categories. We have such a blast hosting this every year, and I hope this one will be no exception. We will have trick-or-treaters on campus from 3-5 pm on October 25th. Sign-ups for Trunks will be available soon. I hope you can participate in all these events! They do so much for our children and our community.



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SUNDAYS AT SAINT PAUL'S

8:30am Worship
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
6:00pm Contemporary Service
*Aug 2nd, 9th, & 16th- Morning Worship will be at
9:30am followed by SS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR STAFF AND EMAILS

Senior Pastor

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Rev. Tom Berlin

OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. Catherine Fluck-Price

OUR MISSIONARY

Charissa Yaeger-Sanders