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Pastor's Message

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. — Luke 6:23

Advent and Christmas are visions that enable all of us to look around us and see what is amazing and good in our lives. It is a reminder that we all need the laughter of God to keep us from taking ourselves too seriously. I think of it as the Christian idea of humor that says whatever falls into the earth will rise again. Our laughter is the echo of Christmas joy in each one of us.

If you really understand and accept the mystery of Bethlehem, “glad tidings of great joy,” your heart will be filled with the laughter of God. *“You are sad now but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy, and that joy no one shall take from you”* (John 16:22).



Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald
Senior Pastor

I know that this Christmas is different than any other we have experienced in our lives. While it is still a season of busy and hectic, the distance we are experiencing is so very difficult. Still, consider the joy that surrounds Jesus' birth.

My prayer for you is that every day of Advent, you would take a moment, look around you, experience the joy, the laughter, the peace, and the hope that is in Christ Jesus.

Peace,
Jeff
Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald
Senior Pastor



JOY TO THE WORLD

A WALK THROUGH THE LESSONS AND CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 20
Intermittently from 4-8 pm

Save your spot at
www.stpaulsjoy.eventbrite.com

This year, experience many of St. Paul's wonderful Christmas celebrations and traditions in one enchanting, outdoor event.

On Sunday, December 20, walk in a small group around the St. Paul's campus to experience the lessons and carols of Christmas. Begin with the prophecies of Isaiah, then see the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, travel with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, and observe other stages of the Christmas story, ending in a brief candlelit meditation in the Sanctuary. The entire walk should take approximately 50 minutes. All but the last stage will be disabled accessible.

To maintain social distancing for this free event, ticketing is required at six-minute intervals between 4 and 8 pm. Register via www.stpaulsjoy.eventbrite.com as soon as possible so we can prepare the way. (See page 6 for ways to help.)

For a complete schedule of Advent-related services and activities, please see www.stpaulshouston.org/joy. See inside this newsletter, too.



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON

Service of Holy Communion
Outdoors, Sunday, December 6, at 4pm

The December 6 Service of Holy Communion will be served in person outside on the Jones Plaza and nearby lawn — rain or shine. It also will be available via Zoom. For details and to reserve your in-person spot, please see www.stpaulshouston.org/events/dec-communion



Sanctuary Open
for Prayer and Meditation
Wednesday, December 23 • 1 to 7 pm
*The Sanctuary will be adorned
with holiday greenery and lit by candles.*

Service of the Longest Night

On the longest night of the year, December 21, it is our tradition to hold space for one another's sadness and grief. This quiet, meditative service will be a gentle container to hold the loneliness, separation, sadness, and grief that our community has experienced.

To participate in this service, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/joy.

To view worship services or concerts that you missed
or just want to watch again,
tune in to St. Paul's YouTube Channel at any time.

Christmas Offering Provides for Unexpected Needs in Extraordinary Times

The Year of Our Lord 2020 has been a dark one for many. Disease, isolation, deprivation, social unrest, uncertainty, and fear have shaded many lives for many months.

In the midst of these dark times, St. Paul's has continued to shine as a light for our congregation and our community. As we entered into the shutdown this spring, we mobilized to help the

Emergency Aid Coalition meet the increased demand. We assembled manna bags in our homes and small groups. We paid for and brought meals to healthcare workers and hospital chaplains. When racial justice came close to home with the killing of George Floyd, we focused energies on anti-racism and racial bias. When MacGregor Elementary students

needed computers for on-line learning, we helped meet that need.

This year's Christmas offering is dedicated to enabling St. Paul's' to continue to be a light in the darkness by providing for the unexpected needs that arise in these extraordinary times.

Christmas offerings are received via the app, or www.stpaulshouston.org/give, or mail to 5501 Main 77004.

Resources for Advent at Home: Candles, Devotionals, and More

People of all ages drove through St. Paul's circle drive on November 21 to pick up supplies for Advent at home. These supplies are still available in the Sanctuary reception area



for pick at any time the building is open. (M-F, 10 am to 2 pm). Those items include:

Ornament Kit.

After you complete your ornaments at home, bring one back to St. Paul's when you come to the December 20 Joy to the

World event and put your completed ornament on the St. Paul's family tree.

Advent: A Calendar of Devotions, Daily Devotional.

Despite the days growing darker, Rev. Jenny Smith invites us to share our God-given light through reminders of God's love in this daily devotional. Each day incorporates scripture, a short devotion, and prayer.

Draw the Circle Wide, Weekly Devotional. This four-week devotional by our St. Paul's clergy is meant to be used in

any season, but it is especially appropriate for Advent. The devotional incorporates scripture, brief written reflection, prayer, and spiritual practice.

Children's Advent Devotional. Our annual devotional for families is creatively illustrated by our own St. Paul's children. Incorporating scripture, art, and family activities, it also is online: www.stpaulshouston.org/childrens-ministry

Advent Candle Kit. Each Sunday morning in Advent we light another candle on the Advent wreath and witness the light grow from week to week. The Advent candle kit contains the candles and liturgy you need to follow along with our Advent wreath lighting in worship. (Photo below.)

Illustrated Advent Wreath. Put together your own colorful Advent wreath using the dynamic and creative resources from Illustrated Children's Ministry.

Nativity Scene Sticker Set and Coloring Pages. As Christmas approaches, this sticker set and coloring page provide an at-home interaction with the nativity.



Third Graders Receive Personal Bibles

Another long-standing tradition received a makeover this fall with the presentation of personalized Bibles to our third graders.

Some of the children received their Bibles on the Jones Plaza, and some received them in their homes. Pictures of these presentations were included in the November 22 worship service, and some of those pictures are on this page.

Children's Sabbath also was celebrated on November 22, still viewable via www.stpaulshouston.org/stream.

This year's third graders are Sydney Anne Cummings, Paul Thomas Dupre, Josephine Lee Furr, John Matthias Gau, Penelope Vivian Guillen, Sari Mayer, Tino Mayer, Jessica Peterson, Lyra Kathryn Phillips, Tristan Beecher Riseden, Khloe E. Stotler, Emerson Sud, Rafael Gee Vassar, Sylvia Mar Vassar, and Colin Joseph White.



The prayer initiative referenced in Rev. Kate Flint's Children's Sabbath sermon: www.cultivatingfamilies.org/prayer-initiative. The goal is to cover each child in the foster care system within the greater Houston area in prayer.

St. Paul's Family

New Members. Welcome Taylor and Adam Alonso with their daughter Mila and Elizabeth and Dylan Heckeroth with their daughter Harper who joined St. Paul's Family November 22, 2020.

Births. Congratulations to Claudia and Ryan Hanford on the birth of their son, Enzo José, born October 18, 2020.

Congratulations to Arlene and Ben Wells on the birth of their son, Lachlan Paul Wells, born October 28, 2020.

Baptisms. Ashley Kay and Mark Jeffrey Amsbaugh presented their daughter, Samantha Kay Amsbaugh, born July 28, 2020, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 1, 2020. The congregation welcomed her into the Community of Faith during the November 8 virtual worship services, Audrey and Matthew White



Taylor & Adam Alonso with Mila

presented their son, Dallas David White, born May 10, 2019, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 8, 2020. The congregation welcomed him into the Community of Faith during the November 15 virtual worship services.

Haley and Derek Deas presented their daughter, Evelyn Margaret Deas, born September 19, 2019, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on



Elizabeth & Dylan Heckeroth with Harper

November 22, 2020. The congregation welcomed her into the Community of Faith during the November 29 virtual worship services.

Deaths. Deepest sympathy to Lucas Moorehead on the death of his grandmother, JoAnn Lindsay, who died October 27, 2020, in Carbondale, IL.

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Sari Frey, who died October 29, 2020.

Community Mission Garden Ready to Sprout



St. Paul's Community Garden Mission is ready to sprout. If you have gardening supplies, stools, or time to volunteer to get this garden started, please email Helen Spaw via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org. Especially needed now are a pick-up truck to bring soil to the garden and wheelbarrows to take the soil from truck to garden. In the long run, volunteers will be needed to help maintain the garden, located on the Prospect Street side of the Jones Building where the school's children may also have the opportunity to learn from this garden as well as a butterfly garden already in place.



Next Recovery Work Day: Saturday, December 5. Sign up here: www.stpaulshouston.org/events/2020/12/5/disaster-recovery-team

In November, St. Paul's Disaster Recovery Team tore out rotting siding and replaced termite-damaged framing in a Northeast Houston senior community center. Led by Steve Benwell, crew members included Noel Chang, Jay Collins, Jeff Klemm, Rev. Pasul Richards-Kuan, and a Chaplewood UMC member.

EAC Preparing for Clients' Winter Needs

The Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC) continues to adapt to provide basic needs to people experiencing homelessness while serving 400 sack lunches each weekday.

Urgent needs vary a bit each week. To receive the weekly update, email info@eachouston.org. For volunteer information, please call Marian Bryant via 832-859-1065.

In preparation for winter, the latest urgent needs include men's warm winter jackets, gloves, shoes, and jeans. Always welcome are peanut butter crackers, granola bars, Vienna sausage, fresh fruit (bananas and oranges), and fruit cups.

Clothing is now distributed by appointment with no physical contact, and volunteers are needed to assist with that effort.

Donate local bakery goods through Three Brothers Bakery: www.3brothersbakery.com/product/provide-a-mitzvah-make-a-donation.

Amazing Place in December

Amazing Place provides virtual options for individuals and families living with dementia. These include activities and caregiver counseling, plus pick-up or delivery of brain-healthy meals. Described in more detail at www.amazingplacehouston.org/updated-services, the December offerings include:

Memory Training. This four-week class is designed to learn techniques and strategies to improve memory. The next \$80 series will be on Tuesdays, December 1-22, from 10 to 11:30 am. To register, contact Sally Davis via sdavis@amazingplacehouston.org.

Dementia Caregiver Support Groups. These groups encourage caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical and emotional health as well as optimally care for the person with dementia. In addition, they may provide a needed break from caregiving responsibilities. These free groups meet virtually on December 3 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm and December 16 from 7 to 8 pm. For more information or to register, go to www.amazingplacehouston.org/engage-support/support-groups.

Memory Preservation Nutrition^(R) Meals. This carryout and delivery meal service is the solution for easy, delicious, brain-healthy nutrition — for anyone. See www.amazingplacehouston.org/updated-services/memory-preservation-nutrition-meals.

Amazing Place is a day program for people with to moderate dementia that also trains and educates caregivers, congregations, health professionals, and the community to equip them with essential knowledge and tools.





The St. Paul's intercessory prayer group meets weekly to pray for the needs of our congregation, family, and friends. The group also writes notes of encouragement to those who have requested prayer. If you or someone you know are in need of prayer support, please send your prayer requests through www.stpaulshouston.org/prayer-requests. Team members, from left are Denise Childres-Ansell, Rev. Andrew Wolfe, Steve Ramirez, Sally Holmes, and Larry Walters.



St. Paul's Choir rehearses and records outside in preparation for the Advent season. — Photograph by Josh Vanlandingham

The CARES Act:

Get More and Give More in 2020

The CARES Act allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize. Simply, if you donate up to \$300 in cash to a qualified charitable organization, like St. Paul's UMC, your adjusted gross income (AGI) will be reduced by up to \$300 — and you can still claim the standard deduction.

For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as St. Paul's to be deducted up to 100 percent of AGI, up from the previous 60 percent. This might be a good year to bunch multi-year gifts or to make large cash gifts to maximize both your deduction and impact on the causes that matter to you.

The CARES Act also waives the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules for individual retirement accounts (IRAs) — but only for 2020. Nonetheless, IRA owners over age 70½ can still give up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to St. Paul's and pay no tax on the distribution.

And, for those 70½* and older, this year as every year, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from their IRA's may be made directly to a qualified charity such as St. Paul's. These distributions count as part of an RMD. Since this is a charitable donation, no additional income is recognized, the tax liability on the RMD is reduced, and one may still take the standard deduction when filing taxes. Some restrictions do apply to these distributions, so check with your tax advisor.

*While the age for RMD's was raised to 72 ½ on January 1, 2020, the age for QCD's remains 70 ½.

An Interfaith Memorial For Those Who Experienced Homelessness

Monday, December 21
11 am via Zoom

For the Zoom link, go to
www.stpaulshouston.org/events/interfaith

The fourth annual Interfaith Memorial Service for the Homeless will take place on Monday, December 21, at 11 am via Zoom. To register to attend this service, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/events/interfaith

This annual memorial service is one of nearly 100 events being held across the country in which advocacy groups come together to honor the lives of the homeless people who have died in the last year.

Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan will preside over the service, which will include leaders from multiple faith communities, who will share brief reflections on their faith traditions' teachings on the sanctity of human life.

HEALING CIRCLES
October-December
All via Zoom

Single Moms Circle
2nd and 4th Tuesdays (except November)
8:30-9:30 pm

Healing of Racism Healing Art Circle
in conjunction with the Center for the Healing of Racism
Third Fridays | 10-11:30am

To connect: email Helen Spaw via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org



ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HOUSTON

PRIMETIMERS

Thursday, December 10
11:00 am to Noon via Zoom

Christmas Organ Music Recital by Christopher Betts, Director of Music

Join us for a recital by Christopher Betts of music by Advent and Christmas composers Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, Alexandre Guilmant, and Timothy Albrecht.

TO CONNECT CONTACT PRIMETIMERS@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG

All are invited to enjoy a brief recital of Advent and Christmas organ music with the Primetimers. Thursday, December 10, at 11 am. St. Paul's Director of Music Christopher Betts also will talk about music of the season and the challenges 2020 has posed to St. Paul's musical presentations. To connect via Zoom, email primetimers@stpaulshouston.org by December 8.

Youth Christmas Movie December 6

All Youth are invited to watch a Christmas movie on the Labyrinth on Sunday December 6, from 6 to 8 pm.

This will be a socially distanced event requiring masks, and all are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair. Individual drinks and snacks will be served.

Please also bring a donation for our animal friends in shelters. Examples: pet food, treats, new toys.

Questions? email tiffin@stpaulshouston.org.

WEEKLY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Youth are gathering throughout the week via Zoom or in person. To learn more, email Tiffin, tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or Oksana, oksana@stpaulshouston.org.

Although this may be modified some during December, the general day-by-day schedule is:

Sundays: Sunday School. 10 am via Zoom.

Tuesdays: Girls Bible Study. 6:30 pm on St. Paul's outdoor Labyrinth. Bring blanket or chair.

Wednesdays: H.O.T. (Hang Out Time). 7 pm via Zoom

Confirmation

A Confirmation class for this year's 6th graders will begin in January.

To ensure receiving updates from the Youth Department about the schedule and related matters please email Kat Denton via kat@stpaulshouston.org.

Joy to the World! a Labor of Love

The *Joy to the World!* Walk through the Lessons and Carols of Christmas began as an idea in the Music Department this summer, and as the days draw nearer to the December 20 event, others have come on board, and more are welcome to help prepare the way. (See page 1 about the event.)

Opportunities to help are listed below along with the contact person for each.

Contact Tiffin Wilsford via tiffin@stpaulshouston.org to receive a Sign-Up Genius link for these:

Build stages. 2-hour shifts, December 12 and 18.

Assemble and/or set up Luminarias. 2-hour shifts, December 19 and 20

Serve refreshments. 1.5-hour shifts, December 20.

Contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org to receive a Sign-Up Genius link for these

Welcome or Guide people along the walk. Numerous time slots between 4 and 8 pm, December 20.

Contact Anna Teagarden ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org or Rev. Kate Flint kflint@stpaulshouston.org about these:

Children may be angels, shepherds, or lambs, wearing masks and social distancing. Scheduled in shifts.

Costumes provided. Dress Rehearsal and costume pick-up Saturday, December 19, from 10 am to noon.

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Stay in touch via the St. Paul's Kids Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KidsOfSPUMC) and the e-letter for St. Paul's Kids and families. To ensure receiving the e-letter, contact Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org. Also contact her for the GROW and Joyful Noise Zoom connections.

Children's Choirs: To register your child for choir, please visit www.stpaulshouston.org/childrenschoirs. For more information, email ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org. The day-by-day children's schedule follows:

Children's Sunday School: All classes, age 3 through 5th grade, meet on Zoom 9:45-10:45 AM for GROW and Joyful Noise assemblies followed by age-level groups. Check Children's Ministry e-letter for the Zoom links. For details: Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Children's Choirs:

- **Wesley Singers** (Grades 1-2). Sundays at 2 pm
- **Choristers** (Grades 3-8). Sundays at 2:45 pm
- **Treble Choir.** Wednesdays at 5:30 pm, at Sanctuary or via Zoom. For each week's location, maintain contact with Anna Teagarden via ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org.
- **One-on-One Voice for Life lessons.** Contact ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org

CORNERSTONE



SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL'S FOUNDATION

We are excited to announce that the Cornerstone Society of the St. Paul's Foundation has been established with 93 charter members, as of November 30, 2020. The charter members include individuals, couples, and families, members of St. Paul's church and some who are not. Charter members are listed below:

The James Baker Family	Tom May
Linda and Vic Baldridge	Lenee and Jeff McDonald
Bevin and Michael Barrett, Alyssa and Aexa	Laura and Dave Morris
Karen Briscoe	Kathryn and Richard Pettys
Beth and Bob Brown and Keaton	Cordelia M. Price
Betty Bynes	Sarah and Michael Ragsdale
Janice and Noel and Sarah	Susie Ragsdale
Camille and Glenn Cunningham	Amy and Brad Richards
Maria and Carl Dahlberg and Noah	Mindy and Connor Riseden
Mel Dailey	Debbie and Andrew Roff, Amanda and Thomas
Sandra and Jerry DeSobe	Kyttie and Bentley Sanford
Paul Fisher and Mary Linda Portner	Walter Saunders
Pamela Floyd	Joan and Richard Spaw
Ashley and David Gordon	Terry Thompson and Linda Taylor Thompson
The John Hawkins Family	The David Vassar Family
Martha and Duane Hirsch	Pat and Jim Walzel
Sally Horrigan	Arlene and Ben Wells, Larson and Lachlan
Jonathan Houg	Janet and Jim Wheeler, Matthew and Mark
Debbie and Frank Jones	Beth and Jim Wiggins
Jano and John Kelly	Johanna and Richard Wolfe and Emily
Lynn Kelly	Lynn Yeoman
Candy and Weir Kyle	Lois Zamora
David Leeds	Janette and Randy Zercher
Betty Jean Ligon	
Haley and Tomas Lopes	

Half of the annual gifts to the Cornerstone Society will be used to support the primary purpose of the Foundation — the Building and Facilities Fund. The balance of Cornerstone Society funds will be directed to a non-profit voted on by members of the Society, based on grant applications to the Foundation.

For more information on the Cornerstone Society or to become a member, please visit www.stpaulshouston.org/foundation. More questions? Email Foundation Executive Director Mary Linda Portner via mlportner@stpaulshouston.org.

To view the November 17, 2020, Town Hall Presentations, tune in to St. Paul's YouTube Channel at any time.

Celebrate Others at Christmas

Looking for a meaningful Christmas gift for someone who seems to have everything or is very hard to shop for?

Consider a gift in their honor to the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation.

You can select from among a number of funds that reflect their special interests: a variety of scholarships, special grants, children's ministries, global missions, music ministries, and of course, the St. Paul's Building and Facilities Fund.

Long after the wrapping paper and ribbons have been swept away, your gift will continue to honor the recipient and benefit our church and its ministries.

Foundation Scholarship Applications Available

Applications for the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation 2021-22 Scholarships are now available: www.stpaulshouston.org/foundation-scholarships.

To facilitate the process, the application has been streamlined, and all documentation may be completed on-line. Changes include allowing students to indicate eligibility for restricted funds, such as early childhood education, music, or seminary.

St. Paul's Methodist Foundation scholarships are awarded to high school seniors pursuing degrees in higher education and to students enrolled in college/university. Special consideration is given to members of St. Paul's and to students with affiliation with the United Methodist Church and the Texas Annual Conference.

The deadline for applications is February 13, 2021, and scholarships will be awarded in mid-March 2021. Questions? Please email foundation@stpaulshouston.org.

Looking Ahead

St. Paul's and UH Telemedicine Clinic to Open in Abraham Station in January

The following was extracted from the November Town Hall presentation by Rev. Andrew Wolfe.

In America we spend more per person on health care than any other nation, yet we have lower life expectancy, greater lags in childhood health, and we record more avoidable deaths than other high-income countries.

All of this because there is an unequal access to healthcare in our country, but it's not simply access to seeing a doctor; it's about housing, income, education, race, access to transportation, family and support systems, and even being connected to a community of faith.

Houston has the world's largest medical center with some of the brightest minds and cutting edge creativity. Also in Houston, those

living in wealthier zip codes live an average of 10 years more than those living in poorer zip codes.

Some see these wounds and look away in shame and fear; others write it off as a problem too big to solve. Yet others see these realities and relish the opportunity build up the Kingdom of God. They see a new vision: They see dreams, dreams with God. They imagine the impossible made possible.

St. Paul's, you are dreaming new dreams; you are seeing God's good future at hand.

For the last two years I've been dreaming with the University of Houston's College of Nursing to imagine what it would look like for the church and higher education to partner together and bring health to the under and uninsured.

And I am excited to announce that in January 2021, we will open a brand new telemedicine clinic in Abraham Station to serve our community — and provide training for future nurses.

Doctors Shainy Varghese, Teresa McIntyre, Kathleen Reeve will oversee the clinic, and the students will be doing hands-on practice right here at St. Paul's. Dr. David Buck, one of the country's foremost experts on health-care for the homeless, will be our collaborating physician.

This team, along with a team of advisors from St. Paul's and the Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC), will build a clinic that addresses chronic health issues and also provides preventive services, such as immunizations, vision screening, and screening for referral to mental health services.

The initial goal is to open the clinic one day a week this spring, adding days each following semester. As we add days, we also will incorporate more health services through interprofessional education with UH's schools of medicine, optometry, social work, and pharmacy.

What I love about this model is how it cares for our community while also preparing future primary care providers to recognize and address the needs of disadvantaged populations.

There is, of course, also a role for you to play. The clinic needs compassionate and caring volunteers to serve as receptionists and to offer clients prayer and spiritual care while they wait to be seen.

If you interested in any way, even if just to learn more about it, contact me via awolfe@stpaulshouston.org.

I am confident that this project will not only improve the health of our community, but that it will help St. Paul's re-imagine how we live into Christ's call to love our neighbors and live out his teaching in Matthew 25:35-37.

Saving Grace: A Money Management Workshop

Jesus speaks more about money than any other topic in the Gospels — more than prayer, faith, or love.

How do we, as people of faith, create healthy relationships with money and possessions?

A money management workshop based on the Cokesbury series *Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being* will examine that question for six weeks, starting January 10, from 5 to 6:30 pm via Zoom. Participants are asked to allow at least a week for advanced preparation.



The workshop will be led by members of St. Paul's Generosity Team. Register and pay for materials through www.stpaulshouston.org/events/saving-grace. Workshop materials will cost \$15, and they will be distributed at times to be announced in late December and early January.

Adapted from the best-selling *Freed-up Financial Living* curriculum from Good Sense, *Saving Grace* provides the text and tools needed to address the topics of saving, earning, giving, spending, and debt, along with helpful strategies for achieving a sustainable financial life. This study is based on Wesleyan values and helps participants reach personal financial goals as well as address life concerns. Workshop components include interviews with financial experts and a 40-day devotional.

As a follow-up to the financial planning principles of *Saving Grace*, in late February St. Paul's Methodist Foundation will sponsor *Putting Your House in Order*, an end-of-life planning workshop led by Leah Taylor of The Methodist Foundation. *Putting Your House in Order* will be offered free of charge to those who complete *Saving Grace*. Registration for *Putting Your House in Order* also will be available to all others.