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Pastor's Message

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the



advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having

become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death — and the worst kind of death at that — a crucifixion.

— Philippians 2:5-8

Sometimes it amazes me how narcissistic our culture has become. Remember when Muhammad Ali was boxing and his trademark phrase was "I am the greatest!" Another celebrity recently said, "I never cease to amaze my own self."

In place of pride, Jesus invites us to take on a life of humility. John Ortberg, in his book *The Life You've Always Wanted* writes, "humility involves a Copernican revolution of the soul, the realization that the universe does not revolve around us." If we can grow into our humility, as Jesus calls, what a gift it could be. It is the freedom to stop trying to be what we are not, or pretending to be what we're not, and accepting, as Ortberg says, "our appropriate smallness." In the words of Martin Luther, humility is the decision to "let God be God."

I'm looking forward to a fantastic summer as we have more and more opportunities to see each other!

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald
Senior Pastor



On Sunday, June 6, at 4pm, St. Paul's Choir will lead its first Evensong since January 2020. Watch via www.stpaulshouston.org/stream, and a limited number of people may attend this service in the sanctuary by registering through the link at www.stpaulshouston.org/events/choral-evensong or calling the church office at 713-528-0527 M-Th between 9 am and 4 pm or Friday between 9 am and noon.

Music will include an introit, *Jesu, the very Thought of Thee* by Edward Bairstow; Evening Canticles by Renaissance composer Robert Causton; Responses by Washington, DC-based composer Gary Davison; an anthem, *My Soul, there Is a Country* by C. Hubert H. Parry, who is most famous for his coronation anthem *I Was Glad*; and hymns, *Christ Mighty Savior* and *The Day Thou Gavest*.

Choral Evensongs are a long tradition at St. Paul's, and the choir has missed being able to share in this beautiful service of music, scripture, and prayer.



Rev. Kate Flint, Associate Pastor for Children's Ministry, will be ordained as a full deacon in a worship service on Tuesday, June 1, at 7 pm during the Texas Annual Conference (TAC).

From May 30 to June 1, Annual Conference will again be virtual. Guests and observers may view parts of the Conference, including this service, through the TAC's YouTube Channel, available at www.txcumc.org.



Thanks to those who helped with the May 14 COVID vaccination drive at the Emergency Aid Coalition. Above is the first person vaccinated that day. St. Paul's blankets donated by Beth Wiggins also were given to vaccine recipients.

Green Team, Community Garden

Create, implement, and support environmental stewardship practices at St. Paul's with the Green Team. The team meets fourth Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:15 am via Zoom.

You also can helping maintain the community garden, host the garden table Sunday mornings, and/or harvest produce for the table.

The herb table is in the circle drive on June 13, 20, and 27. Donations for the herbs benefit the Fe y Esperanza Community Garden members.



For information or to connect email hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

Many Meals Delivered to AmeriCorps Volunteers

Several St. Paul's Sunday School classes and other groups responded to the call to help feed out-of-state volunteers who are in Houston for several weeks to help with repairs to homes affected by the area's various weather-related disasters. Among those groups were the Ordinary Life Women, who provided food for seven meals for each of the eight workers.

As explained by Marcy Boyd, one of the Ordinary Life Women, this cohort of young adults from around the country, three of whom are pictured at right, are participants in a 10-month full-time service program under AmeriCorps NCCC (www.americorps.gov).

The typical pattern is to work on three projects during their service; however COVID has disrupted that pattern. This group had previously worked 12 hour days in Jamaica, Queens, New York, assisting with a COVID vaccination effort.

The food provided to them by St. Paul's groups supplemented the volunteers' \$4.25 daily stipend for food. Lynn Schroth added, "I know this was much appreciated by these young, hard workers as they were ecstatic each time we appeared with food."



Healing Circles

The idea behind Healing Circles is that humans heal in community. The earliest humans gathered around a campfire and shared stories. Healing Circles bring this healing community back into our lives with a format that allows us to explore our healing and experience our wholeness.

At St. Paul's, Helen Spaw conducts healing circles on a variety of topics, some are ongoing with entry at any time, some are short-term with a self-contained group.

The Single Moms Circle is ongoing with entry at any time, meeting the second and fourth Tuesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 pm via Zoom. In June, this group will switch to the second Tuesday, remaining at 8:30 to 9:30 pm.

Also ongoing is a Circle for the Healing of Racism, conducted with the Center for the Healing of Racism. It meets the second Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 am via Zoom.

To connect with these circles, email hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.



CORNERSTONE
society

OF ST. PAUL'S FOUNDATION

The Cornerstone Society is happy to welcome the following new member:

Paul Gainey

The Cornerstone Society is an annual giving society of the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation. Its members contribute to the support of the St. Paul's campus and social justice causes chosen by the society's members.

Membership is open to all members, guests, and friends of St. Paul's. For more information, please visit www.stpaulshouston.org/st-pauls-foundation or contact Mary Linda Portner via mlportner@stpaulshouston.org.

Please look for news on the Cornerstone grant process in a future issue of *St. Paul's Monthly*.

These members of the 2020-21 Confirmation class were confirmed on May 2, 2021, at 5 pm on the Plaza (See picture at right): Henry Michael Brenckmann, James Riley Brennan, Zoe Marie Clark, Mia Grace Cuellar, Katherine Sophia Doe, Andrew Hayes Garland, William Barrett Houck, Benjamin Highnote Johnston, Lydia Nicole Lane, Sladen Troy Ledford, Vivian Marie Misso, Alexis Teresa Ninan, Catherine Sarah Penfold, Ava Leigh Peterman, Miles J. Reynolds, William Igor Robins, Connor Maddigan Charles Roddick, and William Edward Saindon. James Riley Brennan also was baptized during the service.



Volunteer confirmation leaders Danny Clark, Sharon and

Mike Mosby, and Martin Stupel conducted this class in a hybrid of virtual over Zoom and in-person, primarily on the Labyrinth.

Who to Contact for What

To reach any staff, call 712-528-0527 or email info@stpaulshouston.org, and your message will be forwarded.

To inquire about joining St. Paul's or update membership records, contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org.

To schedule a funeral or notify the church of births, deaths, hospitalizations, or other concerns, also contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org.

To schedule a baptism or order altar flowers, contact Dawn Uebelhart via dawn@stpaulshouston.org.

To schedule a wedding, contact Betty Rennell via bettyrennell@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Family

Baptisms.

Amanda and Derek Shaw presented their son, Remy Alexander Shaw, born April 21, 2020, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on April 25, 2021. He was presented to the congregation during the on-line worship services of May 2, 2021.

Michael Pirics and Brett Chiquet presented their son, Richard Harvey Pirics-Chiquet, born February 1, 2021, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the May 2, 2021, outdoor worship service.

Arlene and Ben Wells presented their son, Lachlan Paul Wells, born October

28, 2020, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on April 25, 2021. He was presented to the congregation during the May 9, 2021, on-line worship services.

Tara and Kurt Arnold presented their daughter, Isla Elisabeth Arnold, born June 25, 2020, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 11 am in-person worship service in the sanctuary on May 23, 2021.

Flowers.

The flowers at the altar and in the Narthex on May 23, 2021, were placed to the glory of God in celebration of the baptism of Isla Elisa-

beth Arnold by her parents, Tara and Kurt Arnold, and her brother, Jax.

Deaths.

Deepest sympathy to Dorothy and Jim Conn on the death of Dorothy's sister, Barbara Jo Doebner, who died April 22, 2021, in Buda, TX.

Deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Walter Saunders, who died on April 25, 2021.

Deepest sympathy to Londa and Ken Wright on the death of Londa's brother, Dennis Campbell, who died May 19 in Fort Worth.

Altar Flowers

With the resumption of worship services in the sanctuary, the placing of altar flowers also has resumed.

To provide altar flowers for Sunday morning worship services, please contact Dawn Uebelhart via dawn@stpaulshouston.org.



St. Paul's Worships in Sanctuary for First Time in More than a Year

The *St. Paul's Monthly Newsletter* - March 2020 was full of the joy of the coming Easter season. Then the April newsletter marked the abrupt change that all the world was about to experience for more than a year with this at the top of Page 1: "During this time of COVID-19 uncertainty, St. Paul's remains in connection in as many ways possible. Below is a summary of ways to connect: **Worship Services.** Worship online via www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream or via the St. Paul's app at the normal service times: Sunday mornings at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:05. In lieu of the mid-week communion services, a Message is live-streamed at 12:15 pm Wednesdays."

Much of that pattern for worship remained in place, and new worship opportunities were added: a Monday night Compline service and a monthly Service of Holy Communion, both via Zoom. After some outdoor Communion services during Advent, a Sunday morning service was held outdoors from January 24 to May 16 — two on Palm/Passion Sunday and three on Easter Sunday — with required reservations, masking, and socially distanced seating. And, based on the traditional Lessons and Carols normally sung by the St. Paul's Choir, an outdoor Advent/Christmas production was presented outdoors. And "virtual" and "Zoom" became often-used words for most Sunday School classes and other groups as various coping mechanisms came into place as well.

Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, marked the first official move of worship services indoors with services at 8 and 11 am, complete with registration and social distancing but allowing the wearing of masks based on COVID vaccination status. (Pictures on page 5.) The Mid-Week Communion service moved back inside on Wednesday, May 26, at noon, and many Sunday School classes and other small groups have begun meeting at the church, some in hybrid forms, allowing those who prefer to join in via Zoom.

At this time, it is anticipated that the Monday Compline service will remain on Zoom for the near future, and the Sanctuary services will continue at only at 11 am through June 27 with pre-recorded services broadcast at 8:30, 9:45, and 11 am via www.stpaulshouston.org/stream or the church's YouTube channel. Each Sunday service broadcast entails more than 100 volunteer and staff hours to complete each week, not including the hours spent rehearsing sermons, prayers, and music.

It also is currently anticipated that starting on July 4, the Sunday morning services will be in the sanctuary at 8:30 and 11 am, and both will be provided live via www.stpaulshouston.org/stream.

Official announcements of these changes or additional modifications will be provided via various St. Paul's media.

June 10 Primetimers: History in Progress

The June 10 meeting of the St. Paul's Primetimers will be presented via Zoom by Jim Parsons, Programs Director of Preservation Houston (www.preservationhouston.org).

Since it was founded in 1978, Preservation Houston has worked to save the city's irreplaceable architectural and cultural heritage and to educate Houstonians about this work and its importance. At the June 10 meeting, Programs Director Jim Parsons will discuss the organization's work in the context of the Bayou

City's growth and development, highlighting some of the award-winning restorations that are bringing new life to Houston's historic structures.

As programs director, Parsons puts his lifelong interest in local history and architecture to work coordinating programs and educational outreach for Preservation Houston.

Within this role, he coordinates and presents architectural walking tours, video tours, and lectures. He also has co-authored and photographed several books on Art Deco architecture in Texas, including *Houston Decor: Modernistic Architecture of the Texas Coast*.

To attend this program virtually via Zoom, email



Primetimers@stpaulshouston.org by June 8.

Next meeting: September 9: Virtual tour of Holocaust Museum Houston.



Discovery on Adventure Island: *Quest for God's Great Light*

Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children age 4 as of September 2020 to those who have completed the 5th grade is scheduled to be at the church from Monday, August 2, to Friday, August 6, from 9 am to noon. The theme will be "Discovery on Adventure Island: *Quest for God's Great Light*." Both in-person and virtual options will be available.

The opportunity to participate in a faith-based sports camp produced by Armored Sports will be provided after VBS until 4 pm. For more about Armored Sports, see www.armored-sports.com.

Both morning and afternoon extended care options also are available for a fee.

Registration and other information has been sent to families of children, and is also available here: www.stpaulshouston.org/vbs

Ways to Volunteer

Check this list of roles below, and let Rev. Kate Flint (kflint@stpaulshouston.org) know where you would like to serve. A VBS class for children age 3 and childcare for infants to two-year-olds are provided for parents who volunteer during VBS week.

- Teaching team (children's age levels: 4 years as of September 1, 2021, through 5th grade completed)
- Decorating team
- Snack team
- Storytelling or music
- Missions
- Supply coordination
- Hospitality and Safety



Children's Ministries Update

Children's Sunday School has begun to meet in person, and it is anticipated that the option for hybrid gatherings will remain through the summer. Childcare and in-person Sunday School for children with special needs also has resumed.

Resources or parents to use at home will continue to be available through the *St. Paul's Kids & Families* e-letter, which is usually sent to families with children mid-week and on Sundays. Contents include printables related to the season and links to Sunday School classes and worship services.

To ensure receiving the e-letter and other connections, email kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Also, stay in touch via the St. Paul's Kids Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KidsOfSPUMC).

Children's Choirs, Treble Choir *End-of-Season Celebrations*

At left, the Treble Choir members and Associate Music Director Joel Trekell enjoy a socially distanced end-of-season celebration picnic on the church lawn. Graduating high school seniors Grace Stupel, Sophia Trifilio, and Maddy Vanlandingham were recognized with baskets filled with college survival items, including Ramen noodles and mechanical pencils.

The end-of-year outdoor celebration for the Wesley Singers and Choristers planned for May 1 was rained out and moved to Zoom for a virtual celebration. Virtual presentations of wooden crosses to the 2nd graders graduating from the Wesley Singers and hymnals to the 5th graders graduating from the Choristers will become real when delivered in person over the next few months.

Interim Director of Children's Music Susie Vanlandingham expressed heartfelt appreciation to all the families that submitted recordings for virtual choirs and helped children log-in for virtual rehearsals and lessons.

During this virtual celebration, Children's Council chair Martha Gau appeared live to present Vanlandingham with flowers and a card from the children's choirs families.

Summer

One-on-one voice lessons and the pursuit of medals through the Royal School of Music (RSCM) Voice for Life curriculum will continue to be offered during the summer. For more information, email susie@stpaulshouston.org.

Also during the summer, children's choir members aged 10 and up are encouraged to participate in the RSCM Gulf Coast summer course, which this year is part of a virtual national collaboration between Washington National Cathedral and Duke University. For more information, see www.rscmamerica.org/training-courses or email susie@stpaulshouston.org.



High School Seniors 2021

St. Paul's high school seniors were recognized during the May 16 worship services, both on-line and in-person. Those also were the last services led by the 2020-21 Choral Scholars.

At right are the seniors at the 2021 Youth Banquet. All of the seniors' names follow.

Ainsley Alley, Jaden Anderson, Owen Anderson, Paul (Nick) Aruffo, Colin Beeton, Katy Brandman, Kaelin Everett, Lucas Fernandez, Joshua Garvin, Carter Glickman, Bridget



Hallett, Ella Hough, Ransom Hulett, Michael Ibarra, Nicholas Kapusta, Oliver King, Christopher Knauth, Lucas Lynn, Dalton Machart, Ian Mattingly, Landon McKelvey, Erin Miller, Stephanie (Stevie) Neumann, Delia Pastore, Jacob Pudwill. Isaac Recio, Kirstin Roan, Ethan Robey, Christine Rong, Alexander Saggi, Samuel Saindon, Joseph Sanchez, John (Kevin) Schott, Myles Sealey, Grace Stupel, Meagan Sullivan, Link Summers-Perry, John Tansey, Asha Thekdi, Robert (Wil) Traband III, Sophia Trifilio, Madeline (Maddy) Vanlandingham, Lyndon Walsh, Jude Watt, and Tavon Wilsford.

YOUTH WEEKLY SCHEDULE

June-August 15

Sundays:

Sunday School. 10 am, both in-person and via Zoom
 UMY. 5-7 pm in Youth Center

Tuesdays:

Girls Gathering. 6:30-8pm in Youth Center

Thursdays:

Guys Gathering. 6:30-8pm in Activity Center (Gym)

Fun Fridays:

Days of Service and Recreation. 10 am-4 pm. Different opportunities each Friday from June 4 to August 13. \$25/person covers activity and lunch.

Questions? email tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or oksana@stpaulshouston.org.

Special Thanks

Always appreciated, thanks are extra hearty for the Youth counselors, teachers, and volunteers who helped steer the Youth through COVID this past year.

Junior High Sunday School Teachers: Bob Brown, Paula Stapleton, Jennifer West

Senior High Sunday School Teachers: Noel Chang and Mac MacLaren

Confirmation Teachers: Danny Clark, MacMcLaren, Mike Mosby Sharon Mosby, and Martin Stupel

UMY Counselors: Darrell Anderson, Daley Beard, and Allie Larsson

Acolyte Coordinator: Michael Pirics

Meal Coordinator: Anna Anderson

Fundraising & P.R.A.Y.Coordinator: Jennifer West.



Youth Hold Surprise Graduation Service and Party for Oksana

Oksana Schwack has been St. Paul's Associate Youth Minister for the past three years as part of a Graduate Residency in Youth Ministry program with practical training and coaching from the Center for Youth Ministry Training and a theological education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary leading to a master of Arts in Youth Ministry degree.

When the Youth learned that the seminary was not holding in-person graduation ceremonies this spring, they created a surprise ceremony for her at St. Paul's.

Pending rain prompted a last-minute, socially distanced and masked move from the Labyrinth to the Sanctuary. Oksana, above as she gave an impromptu "valedictory address," was truly surprised.

Looking Ahead

St. Paul's Chamber Music Society Presents Summer Recitals

After the Lenten Recital Series of 2020 was cut short by the initial COVID quarantine, and it was canceled entirely in 2021, also due to COVID, the St. Paul's Chamber Music Society proudly presents a Summer Recital Series.

All of the programs will be free of charge in the Sanctuary on a Sunday at 4 pm. Registration and other considerations for in-person attendance will follow the COVID protocols in effect at the time of each recital. Online live-streaming also will be available via www.stpaulshouston.org/stream



Apollo Chamber Players

Opening the series on Sunday, July 11, will be the Apollo Chamber Players with *American Soundscape* featuring works by prize-winning American composers Julia Smith, Jennifer Higdon, Florence Price, Leo Brouwer and Arthur Gottschalk, and music by Heitor Villa Lobos (Brazil).

The Sunday, July 25, recital will be presented by Soprano Emily Wolfe with Jeol Trezell on Piano.

The Sunday, August 4, recital will be presented with Ben Kerswell on organ with Soprano Amy Erlandson.

Youth Summer Missions

Due to the combination of rapidly changing COVID protocols and the lead time necessary to plan out-of-town mission trips that the Youth have long participated in, the Youth leaders are developing local mission opportunities similar to those with U.M.ARMY and JUMMP for the week of July 19-23. With an option for the Youth to spend nights at St. Paul's, these missions are being planned in conjunction with the church's missions department.

The tradition remains of Youth assisting with Vacation Bible School in the mornings of August 2-6 followed by Youth-only outings in the afternoon.

Volunteers are needed to assist with these activities, and you do not have to have Youth in the program to help. Just email tiffin@stpaulshouston.org to find out more.

The Tallis Scholars



The world's premiere Renaissance vocal ensemble.

Peter Phillips, Director



Friday, April 22, 2022 | 7:30-9:30pm

PRESENTED FREE OF CHARGE BY ST. PAUL'S CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Originally scheduled to sing at St. Paul's on April 15, 2021, the Tallis Scholars are now scheduled for Friday, April 22, 2022 at 7:30 pm. More than four decades of performance and a catalogue of award-winning recordings for Gimell, Peter Phillips and The Tallis Scholars have done more than any other group to establish sacred vocal music of the Renaissance as one of the great repertoires of Western classical music.

Based in Cambridge, England, they have sought to bring Renaissance works to a wider audience in churches, cathedrals, and venues on every continent on the planet except Antarctica. These include the Royal Albert Hall; the Sistine Chapel; the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, New York; the Philharmonic Hall, Berlin; Saint Mark's, Venice; Seoul Arts Centre; Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and Wigmore Hall, London; Royal Concertgebouw, Amsterdam; Beijing Concert Hall; Megaron, Athens; and the Sydney Opera House.

The Tallis Scholars continue to develop their exclusive sound, praised by reviewers for its supple clarity and tone, and to bring fresh interpretations to music by contemporary as well as past composers, such as Pärt, Tavener, Whitacre, Muhly, and Jackson.

For more about The Tallis Scholars and to sample their music, please go to www.thetallis.com.