

Pastor's Message

I was reminded recently of the words of a Bob Dylan song, *The Times They Are A-changin'*. And that is true in so many ways in this current chapter of our lives together.

One change in your staff at St.



Paul's is the departure of Amy Taylor as our Director of Missions. Amy has done amazing work in our out-

reach to MacGregor Elementary, SEARCH Homeless Services, the EAC, and trips to the border – and that's just a few of the areas of impact she has made.

We wish her and her family God's blessings as this summer they move to Minneapolis where her husband Gregg is the Senior Pastor at Park Avenue UMC.

As Amy prepares to leave, Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan transitions his work to more time at St. Paul's. Please see the note from him on page 3.

As a church we continue to find ways to be disciples by loving God and loving our neighbor. Keep an eye on the website (www.stpaulshouston.org) for ways you can do both.

Peace,

Jeff

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald
Senior Pastor

Continue to Worship Together Online

In extensive consultation with the Houston medical community, St. Paul's is moving in unity with denominations and congregations in the Greater Houston area to **worship together only online in May**. We continue to work together with medical and government officials to outline each stage of safe gathering for our community.

Creating Connections

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 the St. Paul's app at the normal service times: Sunday mornings at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:05. Also on that page is access to the Sunday worship bulletin and children's bulletins, Worship on YouTube (provided on Sundays as an alternative to the live-streaming and on Wednesday at 12:15 pm for the Midweek Message), Online Giving, Prayer Requests, Attendance Registration, and Service and Sermon Archives. Services are posted to the archives by the Tuesday following the service. See blue box below about how to get the app.

Prayer and Care. The prayer and care team continues to connect. To ensure no one is overlooked, contact Andrew Wolfe via awolfe@stpaulshouston.org or Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org.

Group Connections. St. Paul's groups of all ages are meeting in a variety of creative ways. See page 2 for a list of classes and other groups that are meeting through some form of electronic communications and how to connect. If your group would like to set up a remote meeting, contact Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan via krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org.

News and Updates. For regular updates and communication from the St. Paul's Family, check the Facebook pages for the church, the Youth, and the children. Also visit the St. Paul's Website, www.stpaulshouston.org, and subscribe to the weekly *Chimes* e-letter. To subscribe to the *Chimes*, e-mail Donna Adair via dadair@stpaulshouston.org.

Records. Ensure your contact information is current. To ensure receiving e-mailed communications from the church, please be sure your records are current by contacting Rachel Wiggs via rachel@stpaulshouston.org.

Access. If you know someone who is unable to connect with St. Paul's via reliable internet or phone connection, please e-mail Andrew Wolfe via awolfe@stpaulshouston.org.

St. Paul's app is available via the App Store and Google Play. To download it direct to your mobile device, send a text to the number 77977 with the message: stpaulshouston.org. You'll receive a text back with a link to download the app.

Connecting with Groups via Electronic Communications

Below is a list of St. Paul's classes and groups that are meeting through a form of electronic communications during this time of COVID-19 concerns. A similar list is updated often at www.stpaulshouston.org/ serving. To ensure your group is included or updated, email dadair@stpaulshouston.org

SUNDAYS

Ordinary Life is live-streamed at 9:45 am. To connect, go to www.ordinarylife.org/live-stream-broadcast

Classes and groups meeting Sundays via Zoom, listed in time order:

- **Centering Prayer** at 8:15. To connect, e-mail Enod Gray via enodhgray@gmail.com
- **Candlelighters** at 9:45 am. To connect, e-mail Beverly McMahan via bjmcmah@swbell.net
- **Journeys** at 9:45 am. To connect, e-mail Gary Payne via gary.payne001@gmail.com
- **Roundtable** at 9:45 am. To connect, e-mail Tom Cole via tscole6234@yahoo.com
- **Special Studies** at 9:45 am. To connect, e-mail Sol Bobst via smbobst@yahoo.com
- **A Study for Uncertain Times** at 9:45 am. Based on Adam Hamilton's *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*. To connect, e-mail Mary Linda Portner via mlportner@stpaulshouston.org.
- **Living Faith** at 10 am. To connect, e-mail Leah Barton via leahrachel@gmail.com
- **Youth** from 2 to 3:30 pm. To connect, e-mail Tiffin Wilsford via tiffin@stpaulshouston.org or Oksana Schwak via oksana@stpaulshouston.org.
- **Parents of Youth** from 5 to 5:30 pm. To connect, e-mail Tiffin Wilsford via tiffin@

stpaulshouston.org or Oksana Schwak via oksana@stpaulshouston.org

- **Amazing Parents Amazing Kids (APAK)**. First Sundays at 1 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Jennifer West via jcwest@gmail.com

MONDAYS

Tai Chi at 9 am via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Byron York via byronyork@me.com. Same time on Wednesdays..

Ordinary Life Book Group. Usually third Mondays via Zoom. Week of month sometimes changes. To connect, e-mail George Sroka via george.a.sroka@gmail.com

St. Paul's Moms Hang Out at 8 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org

TUESDAYS

Tuesday Lectionary Bible Study with Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan at noon via Zoom. To connect, e-mail him via prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org. A short lecture is posted to YouTube after the study. For details, also contact him.

Young Adult (Epworth) League Night Online 7 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan via krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org

Girls Bible Study with Oksana from 7 to 8 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Oksana Schwak via oksana@stpaulshouston.org

Chapter One Book Group. Third Tuesdays at 7 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Linda Harmes via hblindah@hibit.com

St. Paul's Single Moms Group at 8:30 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Helen Spaw via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org

WEDNESDAYS

Men's Lectionary Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald at 7:30 am via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Brad Harmes via bharmes@gmail.com

Healing Circle for Social Distancing Support from 10 to 11 am via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Helen via hspaw@stpaulshouston.org

Joyful Noise at 3:45 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Anna Teagarden via ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org or Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Heart Health Support Group conducted by Houston Methodist Hospital. Second Wednesdays at 5:30 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail facilitator Wayne Brewer via wbrewer878@aol.com

THURSDAYS

Women's Lectionary Bible Study with Rev. Barbara Robberson at 8:30 am via telephone conference. To connect, e-mail Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan via krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org

Guys Bible Study with Tiffin at 6 pm. To connect, e-mail Tiffin Wilsford via tiffin@stpaulshouston.org

Her|meneutics. First and third Thursdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail hermeneutics-SPUMC@gmail.com or Rev. Karyn Richard-Kuan via krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org

LAST SESSIONS FOR SEASON

The Wesley Singers and Choristers will meet via Zoom for the last time this school year at 3:45 pm on May 4 and 5, respectively.

The Treble Choir concludes the school year via Zoom on Wednesday, May 6, at 5:30pm.

To connect, email Anna Teagarden via ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org.

With Gratitude....

In early March St. Paul's launched the Renew campaign, encouraging our congregation to renew their commitment to mission and ministry by enrolling in a recurring gift program to support the ministry budget of the church. At that time 76 households were making recurring gifts. Over the weeks that followed, 51 more households renewed their commitment to mission and ministry at our church.

We are deeply grateful.

This commitment has enabled St. Paul's to continue to be the church in these uncertain times — to minister to the marginalized in our community, offer comfort and healing to our congregation, and reach out to our neighbors in need.

If you have not yet enrolled in Renew, you can do so by visiting www.stpaulshouston.org/renew.

We also are deeply grateful to the many who generously responded to the Easter offering, stretching to give beyond their regular tithe, to enable St. Paul's to live into its mission and ministry in this unique season. Our budgeted goal for the Easter offering was \$70,000 (reflecting last year's giving). This year, despite an uncertain economy, St. Paul's members and friends contributed \$53,748 to the special offering.

Children's Bulletins also Provided Electronically Now

The children's worship bulletins have been teaching Bible lessons to children while also keeping them occupied during worship since they were introduced at St. Paul's on November 4, 1990.

These bulletins now also are provided electronically via the *Kids & Families News* weekly e-letter, the *Chimes* churchwide weekly e-letter, and on the website's Upcoming Services (www.stpaulshouston.org/upcoming-services) and Live Stream (www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream) pages.

With age-appropriate, quiet pencil-and-paper activities for the children to pursue during worship, the bulletins are keyed thematically to the scriptures used in the worship service that Sunday. See sample at right.

Although St. Paul's has been live-streaming worship services for approximately four years, when COVID-19 concerns prompted that method to be the only way to worship with St. Paul's, it was determined that these popular children's bulletins be made available for parents to download for use at home. That practice will continue.

East End Sun Setting

Dear St. Paul's Family,

With our minds engrossed with all things COVID-19, I bring you news unrelated to the global pandemic.

On March 26, we announced that Amy Taylor will be leaving our staff as her family moves to Minneapolis. With Amy's coming move, I will be transitioning to focus exclusively on equipping St. Paul's to join the work of God in the world.

With that transition, it also has come time to say goodbye to the work in the East End.

Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon, pastors and co-authors of the book *Weird Church*, describe a certain kind of Christian community as a "moment of grace." While I wrap up my work in the East End with some sad goodbyes, I also recognize that for a short time we got to witness the grace of God at work in that neighborhood. Karyn and I will continue to live in the East End and pour into that community in our free time, but no longer will my work focus on the East End.

As I transition, we also are exploring how to celebrate the work in the East End over the last few years. I look forward to the time when we can gather together again and I can lead the missional imagination of the St. Paul's community.

Peace of Christ,
Paul

Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan,
Associate Pastor for Missions



Jesus said, "Believe Me."

Match the shapes.

Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 3+

May 10, 2020 • John 14:1-14

Jesus, the Way to the Father

The disciples asked Jesus to show them the way to the Father.

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

St. Paul's First Virtual Confirmation Class

After approximately seven months of live-and-in-person classes, field trips, and a retreat in Galveston, COVID-19 sent the 2019-20 Confirmation class into virtual mode to end the year with Zoom classes and a retreat "at" Ole Moon.

Thanks to Sharon and Mike Mosby, Mack McLaren, and Martin Stupel for their extra level of dedication as Confirmation leaders and teachers.

The class was recognized in the April 26 live-streamed worship services and will be in the May 1 Friday Message. A live-and-in-person Confirmation service will be conducted when it is safe to do so.

Members of this year's class are listed at right. In lieu of the traditional group Confirmation class picture on St. Paul's front steps, above their names is a picture from their fall 2019 retreat in Galveston.



Rachel Anderson

Linden Beebe

Winston Beebe

Julia Beech

Katherine Doe

Lulu Flores

Paul Gau

Jacob Gunn

Noah Gunn

Keira Heath

Blake Henry

Lucy Holt

Elizabeth Jost

Reid Kurtas

Will Lane

Madeline Malina

Sophie Marcello

Emma Mudd Halleran

William Muratta Plante

Georgia Mustachio

John Sharp

Mallory Taylor

Ella Taylor

Sarah Vanlandingham

Cobin Wanner

Sophia Watson

Victoria Weisser

Mark Wheeler

Adam Wilson

Charlotte Witz

Mother's Day Joy

Since church will not be open this Mother's Day due to COVID-19 concerns, in lieu of the photo booth introduced last year and the traditional cookies and flowers, the Congregational Care team has developed another fun way to celebrate our mothers.

It will be introduced and available for download via the church Facebook page, the website Events section (www.stpaulshouston.org/events), the *Chimes* all-church e-letter, and the Youth and children's e-letters.

High School Seniors to Be Recognized

This year's high school seniors will be recognized during the May 17 worship services and the May 22 Friday Message.

Ordinary Life Makes Gift to Help Most Vulnerable

In the April 2020 *St. Paul's Monthly* newsletter it was announced that the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston had given a \$10,000 grant to support the most vulnerable members of the congregation and community who were faced with possible evictions after the coronavirus moratorium elapses. Funding was provided from the Foundation's Houston Poverty Outreach Fund.

In partnership with Main Street Ministries, Rev. Nataly Negrete and Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan along with the outgoing Director of Missions Amy Taylor set up the fund to especially help people in the undocumented community who are not able to receive federal financial support. However, those funds quickly ran out as many families struggled to keep up with bills while forced out of work due to coronavirus concerns.

In late April, the Ordinary Life steering committee voted to help replenish that fund with an initial gift of \$2,000 plus more to be provided later through a fundraising effort.

To be given directly to the families facing the greatest financial hardship, the distribution will be expertly handled through Main Street Ministries, which demonstrated a strong track record of professionalism and compassion through their partnership with St. Paul's during the Harvey recovery.

Many thanks to the generosity of Ordinary Life and donors to the Foundation's Houston Poverty Outreach Fund.

Update, Notify

To update your membership records — including e-mail addresses & telephone numbers — or to schedule a baptism or flowers, please contact Rachel Wiggs via Rachel@stpaulshouston.org.

To notify the church of births, deaths, illnesses, hospitalizations, or other joys or concerns, please email nina@stpaulshouston.org.

Eddie Quaid Retiring after 14 Years as Choral Scholars Director

After 14 years, Eddie Quaid is retiring as director of St. Paul's Choral Scholars. During his time, the choir has grown from 17 to 34 singers and is a foundation of the 9:45am Sunday worship service.

Attracting some of the very best high school choral students from the Greater Houston area, this last season, 18 were All State Choir singers.

Bringing these talented young musicians into St. Paul's introduces them to singing the finest sacred music in a liturgical setting and equips them to be a part of church choirs for the rest of their lives. At the moment, four of the St. Paul's Choir singers are former Choral Scholars.

Prior to directing the Choral Scholars, Eddie had retired from 35 years as a high school choral director in Oklahoma and Texas. He serves on the Artistic Advisory Board of the American Festival for the Arts and is an Educational Consultant to the GRAMMY™ Award-Winning Houston Chamber Choir. Eddie is a founding member and serves on the editorial board of Alliance Music Publications, and he co-founded Quaid/Schott Media Productions to preserve the legacy of major choral conductors.

Letter from Eddie Quaid

Fifteen years ago, the music department at St. Paul's had a dream to form a choir of talented high school singers from the greater Houston area in order to give them an opportunity to rehearse and sing quality sacred choral music on a weekly basis. These students would be chosen by audition and paid a stipend, which was appropriate because it would act as an added incentive to make participation in this program a priority over other activities in their busy lives. The goal was to lead worship at the 9:45 service and to help these singers achieve the highest artistic and spiritual experience.

Over that time, more than 350 high school singers have participated in Choral Scholars and have gone on to become wonderful parents, church musicians, teachers, choral directors, research scientists, doctors, lawyers, professional singers, and even an American Ninja Warrior!

I have been so fortunate to direct Choral Scholars for the past 14 years. During this time, Scholars have participated yearly in Evensong services and have sung for more than 415 worship services. They have chosen to give back to the community by presenting a yearly recital that raises funds for the Emergency Aid Coalition. We also have reached out to the community through singing at local retirement centers, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Chase Bank, MD Anderson, and Ronald McDonald House.

We presented an interest session at the National American Choral Directors Association and appeared on stage at Jones Hall with the Chieftains. Scholars have traveled five times to the New York City area and were invited to be the choir in residence at St. Joseph's Church in Bronxville, NY.

I am retiring at the end of this season, and I will always treasure the time that I have spent at St. Paul's. I can never thank this congregation enough for all the love and support you have given me and this wonderful young choir. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for providing a special place for Choral Scholars.



"Eddie is what I would call a Rock Star among choral directors...not just high school, but college as well," said Beth Brown, mother of a recent Choral Scholar, Keaton Brown, who now is a baritone vocal performance major at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

"Keaton, as well as all the Scholars, knew that he was the one you wanted as a reference on your resume and audition tape. Our Choral Scholars program has the respect of choral directors all over because of Eddie."

"Although Eddie is retiring from the Choral Scholars at the end of this school year," said St. Paul's Music Director Christopher Betts, "he and his successor, Matthew (Matt) Perez, are working together in recruiting another excellent Choral Scholars group for our next season — no small feat when it is not possible to meet with the singers in person.

"We will bid farewell to Eddie just as soon as we are able."

Choral director at Cypress-Falls High School from where six of our current Choral Scholars are drawn, Matt will be introduced more thoroughly in the June *Monthly* Newsletter.



Choral Scholars Photograph by Sandy Bankston

Express to the First Floor, Zoom!

By Anna Teagarden, Director, Children's Music

"Express to the first floor, zoom" is a phrase in one of our Children's music warm-up songs, *Step into the Elevator*. Ironically, it fits perfectly into our new world of interactive and virtual choir on the ZOOM website. We all have had to adjust to this new way of communicating, and it has definitely been an express ride!

Since the beginning of our shelter-in-place orders, we have gathered with the children weekly for Joyful Noise, Wesley Singers, Choristers, Treble Choir, and GROW. And we worshiped together during Holy Week for our annual Children's Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, all via Zoom.

I am always amazed at the ease with which children adjust to new experiences. They just roll with it...much easier and more adaptable than their leaders. It has lifted my spirits each week to see their smiling faces, hear their prayers, and see them jumping up and down, clapping their hands in the comfort of their homes.

As we continue during this time, I am thankful for the "express to the first floor, zoom" experience to interact with the amazing young musicians of St. Paul's.

The children's choirs will conclude the school year with these end-of-year celebrations:

Wesley Singers. Monday, May 4, at 3:45pm. Talent Show and recognition of 2nd graders becoming Choristers.

Choristers. Tuesday, May 5, at 3:45pm. Talent Show and presentation to 5th graders of hymnals from the Children's Music Department.

Treble Choir. Wednesday, May 6, at 5:30pm. Recognize seniors McKenna Miller and Daniela Arena.

Weddings, Funerals, and Memorial Services

During this period of social distancing, weddings are not being performed live at St. Paul's. Questions? contact Wedding Coordinator Betty Rennell via bettyrennell@gmail.com. Also see www.stpaulshouston.org/weddings

St. Paul's also currently is unable to hold funerals or memorial services. Questions? Rachel Wiggs via rachel@stpaulshouston.org. Or see www.stpaulshouston.org/funerals

Interfaith Vigil for Hope, Healing

One lone bell from St. Paul's Tower, rung by Dawn Uebelhart, set the tone for a Virtual Interfaith Prayer and Reflection Vigil for Hope and Healing organized by Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston. The service was conducted in the late afternoon of Thursday, April 30, as a way to be united during these difficult times. Special prayers, reflections, music and readings were offered by faith leaders from Houston's diverse religious communities.

Let Us Know Your Favorite Hymns for Virtual Hymn Festival

On Pentecost Sunday, May 31, at 4 pm, St. Paul's will live-stream a Virtual Hymn Festival.

Everyone is invited to sing along to celebrate the congregation's most-loved hymns. To determine what those are, please send the St. Paul's Music Office the names of your favorite hymns.

Email your top ten hymns — no more than ten please — to music@stpaulshouston.org by Friday, May 15. The most popular will be included in the service.

As a bonus, the music staff will research and share the history of the hymns, their authors, and composers.

Treble Choir, Ben Kerswell Pioneer Virtual Choir at St. Paul's

By Anna Teagarden, Children's Music Director

Our weekly services have been a real challenge to connect with our congregation on an intimate and personal level. I felt strongly about attempting a "virtual choir" with the Trebles so that our congregation could see their faces and watch them as they sing.

Thank goodness for our organ scholar and native teacher, Ben Kerswell, who was able to take on the challenge of learning how to put this virtual choir together — it takes hours upon hours of editing with both audio and video.

I was extremely proud of our girls, as this is a vulnerable thing to do. Ben recorded the accompaniment, which we sent to each girl to record their individual voices and beautiful faces. Their recordings were sent back to Ben for editing.

The final product was the Offertory on Sunday, April 26. To watch, go to www.stpaulshouston.org/sermons

Virtual Wesley Singers, Choristers

The tradition of the Wesley Singers (1st and 2nd graders) and Choristers (3rd-5th graders) providing music during worship on Mother's Day will continue this year — virtually.

Organ Scholar Ben Kerswell will edit recordings the children are providing of them singing *How Lovely Is the House of God* and *Day by Day*.

Be sure to share this special moment on Sunday, May 10, by tuning in to worship at 8:30, 9:45, or 11:05 am. Enter worship through St. Paul's app or www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream.

The service later will be posted on www.stpaulshouston.org/sermons

St. Paul's Foundation Grants in Action

When the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation was founded in 1960, its purpose was to establish an endowment that would ensure that the Sanctuary and Jones Building would sustain the church and its ministries for generations to come. In the decades that followed, new funds were established, reflecting the philanthropic purposes of their donors: scholarship funds and lectureships, as well as ones dedicated to missional outreach.

This last category provides grant funding to general missions, programs for children and youth, and local and global missions, including the Houston Poverty Initiative and St. Paul's Mission to Latin America. In 2019, the Foundation provided more than \$82,000 in funding to a variety of qualified non-profits. Some are organizations with which St. Paul's members are quite familiar: Amazing Place, the Emergency Aid Coalition, Holly Hall, Justice for Our Neighbors, and SEARCH Homeless Services. Others were much smaller agencies, also engaged in transforming lives. Here are some of their stories:

A 2nd Cup, is a non-profit coffee shop fighting human trafficking in Houston, one cup of coffee at a time. A unique combination of business and philanthropy, A 2nd Cup offers a life-changing cup of coffee, using its profits to fight against human trafficking. The Foundation partnered with the agency to support the Brazen Table, a culinary and job skills training program of A 2nd Cup. Participants receive classroom and hands-on instruction in culinary training and have the ability to move into paid employment positions within catering and restaurants, thus countering a tendency to return to "the life" as a means of survival.

Since 2006 the **H.E.A.R.T** has been providing job training to low-income Houstonians with intellectual and/or development disabilities (I/DD). The program gives trainees the opportunity to maintain vending machines and run concession booths. H.E.A.R.T. now operates 88 vending machines in the greater Houston area and manages more than 180 concession events annually. H.E.A.R.T. provides the training and guidance necessary for trainees to work at all of these enterprises and earn paychecks at minimum wage or higher. Partnering with H.E.A.R.T., the Foundation helped to provide partic-

ipants with effective education, vocational training, and employment to give this community an equal chance at success.

Neighbors in Action (NIA) serves the poor and needy of the Port Houston community, a neighborhood of approximately 5,000 near downtown Houston but isolated from surrounding neighborhoods by industrial development and railways. It has no health facilities, pharmacies, grocery stores, fire stations, or even fast food restaurants, but it is the location of organized, widespread sex trafficking. At Port Houston Elementary, the only school in the area, 99 percent of the students are Hispanic, 98 percent receive free or reduced lunch, and 68 percent are English-language learners.

The Foundation partnered with NIA to support their children's program, La Conexión Jr., which is a mix of Bible studies, crafts, special guest speakers, service projects, and fun. Grant funding was used to purchase curriculum materials, provide healthy meals and snacks for the children (an average of 25 per week), provide transportation, and pay a small percentage of staff salaries.

Small Steps was founded on the belief that serving children in need is an expression of God's love. Small Steps operates two accredited pre-schools for economically at-risk children, ages 2 through 6, living in the Fifth Ward and surrounding areas. Students attend school five days a week from late August to June at no financial cost to their families. The curriculum fosters social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual growth. Students learn emotional awareness, self-control, problem solving, and positive communication. The Foundation supported this exemplary program through a grant to its general operations.

The 2020 grant application process is currently open; the deadline for proposals from qualified non-profits is May 15, 2020. Applications are available at www.stpaulshouston.org/foundation-grants or by e-mailing foundation@stpaulshouston.org.

St. Paul's Family Death

Deepest sympathy to Johanna and Richard Wolfe and Emily Wolfe on the death of Johanna's mother and Emily's grandmother, who died April 23, 2020, in Alabama.

Looking Ahead

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS



The world's premiere Renaissance vocal ensemble.
Peter Phillips, Director



Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm

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

Youth Summer Activities Cancelled, Postponed, or Re-Configured

The Royal School of Church Music Gulf Coast Course scheduled for June 22-28 at St. Paul's has been cancelled. A form of virtual gathering and possibly a virtual choir are being planned.



A Winter Festival for January 2021 also is being planned with Michael McCarthy of the National Cathedral as clinician.

Youth Mission Trips

St. Paul's Youth were scheduled to go to U.M.ARMY — United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth — and JUMMP — Junior United Methodist Mission Project — in June. Both dates have been cancelled.

July and August dates currently are under consideration for both U.M. ARMY and JUMMP.



VBS: *Knights of North Castle*

Children from ages 4 years through 5th grade completed are invited to go adventuring with the "Knights of North Castle" at this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Through timeless Bible stories and the excitement of the wintry castle theme, kids will learn what it means to be strong in the strength of God's power.

VBS currently is scheduled for the Monday-Friday week of August 2-7 from 9 am to noon with child-care options available.

"Although we are optimistic that our August VBS will be possible as scheduled," added Rev. Kate Flint, Associate Pastor for Children's Ministries, "we are investigating weekend VBS options for the fall, if needed."

Please continue to save cereal boxes for a special VBS craft project. Also keep making snowflakes, using as many creative ways possible to design them -- paper, pipe cleaners, beads. Share the snowflakes on the St. Paul's Children's Facebook page as you make them, too.

For more information, including volunteer opportunities, see www.stpaulshouston.org/vbs or email Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

