

5501 Main at Binz/Bissonnet • Houston, TX 77004
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Pastor's Message

The rest of the country can say what they want about weather in Texas, but Houston really shines in the fall. The sun makes frequent appearances and our daylight lasts plenty long; our 'cold fronts' only require a light jacket. You can step out into God's good creation or crack a window open to take in the cool air to restore your spirit. It is an ideal time to reconnect with one another, with God, and with the rest of creation.

Our community shines in the fall, too!

This fall we are discovering new ways to connect with one another and to celebrate our beloved traditions. The church building may not be our best spot to crowd into right now, but our faith community is even more committed to circling around one another in love, support, and fellowship.



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From the launch of a community garden to all sorts of drive through events, from one-on-one conversations to daily worship and prayer, we continue to move and flow with the passions and needs of our community. We give thanks to God for each one of you: for your resilience, steadfastness, and compassion.

We look forward to the time when we can be all together in one place, worshipping God and growing in faith together. But we are not waiting or holding our breath - thanks to your flexibility and faithfulness, St. Paul's is doing sacred work today and by God's grace we will do sacred work tomorrow. Thanks be to God!

Peace,
Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis here Virtually this October

When she was eight years old, Jacqui Lewis hid under her bed as bullets flew in her Chicago neighborhood following the assassination of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In that moment, she felt called to work for racial equality in the United States.

A wonderful Sunday School teacher, singing in gospel choirs, and summer camp all confirmed Jacqui's call to ministry. Time in corporate America only served to seal the deal.

Today, the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis is a pastor at Middle Collegiate Church

and The Collegiate Church of New York.

Her preaching, teaching, speaking, writing, and activism are aimed at racial equality, gun control, economic justice, and equal rights for all. Jacqui has preached at the Festival of Homiletics, Wild Goose, The Children's Defense Fund's Haley Farm.



She will be the featured presenter here on Saturday, October 17, from 9

am to 3 pm and Sunday, October 18, at 9:45 am. For connecting information, see www.ordinarylife.org/events



World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday will be recognized during the morning worship services with a sermon by Rev. Nataly Negrete and special music. The service of Holy Communion will be celebrated via Zoom at 4 pm that day. To virtually attend, please go to www.stpaulshouston.org/worship, scroll down to the Monthly Communion picture, and click a few minutes prior to service time.

Choral Scholars 2020-21 Begin Year with New Director, Virtual Practices

St. Paul's Choral Scholars 2020-21 made their worship debut singing *The Call* by Kenneth Jennings for the September 20 offertory — and they still have met together in person.

Matt Perez, the new director who succeeded long-time director Eddie Quaid, had met in person with the returning members during the directorship transition and met the new members virtually in the Spring.

Although currently not singing in the 9:45 service each Sunday, the choir does rehearse weekly, usually in sectionals, and, Perez said, they are eager to be in the church in person together.

Selected after a rigorous audition process, this year's choir members represent eight schools in six area school districts. Ten of the 19-member choir members are returning. One, Audrey Tollett, is a St. Paul's member. Following is a list of this year's Choral Scholars, organized by districts and school Returning vocalists are indicated with an asterisk (*).



St. Paul's Choral Scholars 2020-21 debut virtually during the September 20 worship services with *The Call* by Kenneth Jennings.

Aldine ISD. Eisenhower HS: Victoria Cerda.

Alvin ISD. Shadow Creek HS: Daniella Jacob.

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD: Cypress Creek HS: *Emily Pace; *Cypress Falls HS:* Gabriel Gutierrez, Austin Ha, *Ben Mera, Kirstin Roan,;and Joseph Sanchez; *Cypress Ranch HS:* Erin Miller.

Houston ISD. Kinder HSPVA:

*Joshua Garvin, Olivia Gonzalez, Anshita Lal, *Samantha Pape, *Christine Rong, *Asha Thekdi, and *Audrey Tollett.

Kingwood ISD. Kingwood HS: *Isaac Recio and *Jude Watt.

Magnolia ISD. Magnolia HS: *Carlin Holton.

St. Paul's Family

New Members.

On Sunday, September 27, 2020, we welcomed Matt Wells, and Pam and Jim Wells into the St. Paul's family.

Baptisms.

Hilary and James Newman presented their son, Theodore Augustus Newman, born May 15, 2020, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on September 13, 2020.

Sarah and Chris McKinney presented their daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth McKinney, born March 21, 2016, for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on September 20, 2020.

To update membership records, including telephone numbers and email addresses, please contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org.

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

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

To schedule a wedding, please contact Betty Rennell via bettyrennell@

Birth.

Congratulations to Rev. Cassandra (Cassy) Nuñez and Rev. Cesar Nuñez on the birth of their son, Joaquin Nuñez, born September 11, 2020. Until this summer, Cassy was a part-time associate pastor here, shared with Bering UMC.

Deaths.

Deepest sympathy to Lynn Gissel on the death of her husband, Henry Gissel, who died on September 15, 2020.

Deepest sympathy to Linda and Dick Rentz, on the death of Dick's brother, William Rentz, who died September 15, 2020.

Deepest sympathy to Marian and Bruce Bryant on the death of Marian's mother, Lorwen Lois Williams Merriman, who died September 17, 2020, at age 104.

Deepest sympathy to Donna and Art Adair and their family on the death of Donna's sister, Patricia Wynn (Pat) Voss, who died in Odem, Texas, on September 30, 2020.



Choral Scholars Recital Benefits EAC

The St. Paul's Choral Scholars will present a virtual benefit recital Sunday, October 25, at 4 pm on behalf of the Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC).

Presented online, the recital will include *Panis Angelicus* by Cesar Franck, sung by Austin Ha; *The Crucifixion* by Samuel Barber, sung by Anshita Lal; and *Deh Vieni, Non Tardar* by Mozart, sung by Victoria Cerda; and many other offerings.

Since the inception of these recitals, participation has been optional, but due to this year's unusual circumstances, it is required. "And they are all in," notes director Matt Perez. "They are eager to be part of this special event."

The idea of presenting these EAC benefits came from three-year Choral Scholar Emily Wolfe, a recent vocal performance graduate of Baylor University. Now a member of St. Paul's Choir and long-time member of the church, she has sung the Psalm and solos several times during this time of virtual services. Her original goal for this recital remains for today's Choral Scholars, which is to present an entertaining program that will help in this worthwhile venture."

Donations will be accepted via www.stpaulshouston.org/choralscholars or by mailing your gift to St. Paul's notating Choral Scholars/EAC Recital in the memo line.

See story at top of page 2 for more about this year's Choral Scholars.

CHORAL SCHOLARS

EAC BENEFIT CONCERT

Sunday, October 25, at 4 pm online

DONATIONS SUPPORT THE EMERGENCY AID COALITION.



Join us online to enjoy fine young vocalists in an entertaining recital of the best of classical and popular music.

EAC Adapts to Serve Growing Clientele

The Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC) continues to serve approximately 400 sack lunches each weekday, requiring clients to practice physical distancing and providing masks for those without.

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.

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

Ongoing needs include boxer shorts in sizes M, L, and XL; men's jeans, sizes 30, 32, and 34 in various lengths; and large tubs of peanut butter. Also needed are fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas); peanut butter or cheese crackers; large jars of grape jelly, canned fruit, individually packaged trail mix, and "pop-top" items with protein such as tuna, Vienna sausages,

pork and beans, bean dip, and Chef Boyardee pasta meals.

Shop Amazon wish list: <https://a.co/3b79tEQ>. The EAC has requested that Amazon orders be delivered between 8 am and 1 pm M-F. If you live near the church, arrangements can be made for an EAC volunteer to pick up your order from your home.

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

Amazing Place Offers Options

Amazing Place provides virtual options, including activities and dementia caregiver counseling, plus pick-up or delivery of brain-healthy meals. Described in more detail at www.amazingplacehouston.org/updated-services, in summary they are

Day Program Services. These include: *Activity Program* and *Dementia Caregiver Counseling Services*.

Memory Preservation Nutrition^(R) Meals. This carryout and delivery meal service is the solution for easy, delicious, brain-healthy nutrition — for anyone. For details, including the week's menu and online order form, see www.amazingplacehouston.org/updated-services/memory-preservation-nutrition-meals.

Connections Programs. These include: *Savvy Caregiver* and *Memory Training*.

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.



**Help Prevent Collision of
Flu Season & COVID-19**

**Get Your
Flu Shot Now!**

Alejandro & Martin Mejia Earn Eagle Scout Rank

The sons of Sarah and Silvio Mejia, Alejandro, age 14, and Martín, age 13, have earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Alejandro was awarded his rank on August 19. His project, completed in February, was the construction and installation of three picnic tables for

School dedicated to a much-beloved teacher who had died suddenly in February.

Both boys were baptized at St. Paul's and were awarded their God and Country badges here in April 2015.

Alejandro was a member of the 2018 confirmation class, and Martín was a member of the 2019 confirmation class.

They are members of Boy Scout Troop 464 at the First United Methodist Church of Pearland where Alejandro has been the senior



Martín, left, and Alejandro Mejia point to their names on their troop's Eagle Honor Roll Board.

use as an outside classroom at Berry Miller Junior High in Pearland ISD.

Martín was awarded his rank on September 4. His project was the design, planning, and installation of a memorial garden at Rogers Middle

patrol leader and Martín is the assistant senior patrol leader.

Alejandro is a freshman at Strake Jesuit, and Martín is in the eighth grade at Miller Junior High in Pearland ISD.



A St. Paul's Youth shows off his yard sign. These signs were distributed to families with children and youth in September, and they are now available for everyone to pick up in the Sanctuary Building reception area any time the building is open. Current building hours are Monday-Thursday, from 10 am to 2 pm. Get yours today, and show your St. Paul's pride.

Race • Justice • Us

St. Paul's continues to provide opportunities and resources for passionate and sustained action to overcome racism. These are described more thoroughly at www.stpaulshouston.org/anti-racism where a registration form also is provided.

Other groups seeking ways to overcome racism include

St. Paul's Moms Group. Led by Rev. Kate Flint, Associate Pastor for Children's Ministry, moms of all ages are identifying implicit bias in their parenting as they strive to raise children with better awareness of social justice. Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays at 8 pm via Zoom. Connect: kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

her | meneutics. This women's group is studying Willie Jennings' commentary on Acts as they share spiritual practices centered around implicit bias. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Connect: hermeneuticsspumc@gmail.com

SUPPORT ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY GARDEN MISSION



TO HELP PLAN, COORDINATE, DEVELOP, MAINTAIN
EMAIL HSPA@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG

The garden will be on the Prospect Street side of the Jones Building where part of a butterfly garden used by St. Paul's School will be transformed into this community mission garden. The school's children then will have the opportunity to learn from both types of gardens.

Help continue planning this garden and learn what you can do as it progresses — knowledge, skills, tools, labor, funding, whatever works for you.

Next meeting: Friday, October 9, at 10:30 am via Zoom. To connect, email hspaw@stpaulshouston.org. All interested parties invited.


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



Debra Fischer was first in line to donate blood at the September 27 blood drive held on behalf of the Gulf Coast Blood Center. If you missed this opportunity, be on the look out for more to be held here or go to the Blood Center's website and sign up at a time and place convenient to you: www.giveblood.org

Make Manna Bags (Survival Kits) at Home

In preparation for World Homelessness Weekend, October 9-11, St. Paul's people purchased components of manna bags (or survival kits) to make their own manna bags at home for distribution beyond the St. Paul's area.



If you missed this opportunity, you can purchase the components separately and assemble them at any time.

Suggested components are a face mask, bottled water, toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm, socks, rain

poncho, granola bar, beef jerky, an encouraging note, and a resource guide.

In the note, please do not include dates, contact information, last names, religious references, or seasonal information, such

as holiday references.

For a resource guide to shelters and other services, please go to www.searchhomeless.org/survival-kits-for-our-homeless-neighbors.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.
 Register by **October 5!**
 Check registration status:
www.teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do



A PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Chapters covered
10/7	7's	read chapters 8-11
10/14	Beasts & Dragons	read chapters 12-13
10/21	Wrath, etc.	read chapters 14-17
10/28	The Fall	read chapter 18
11/4	Victory & Defeat	read chapters 19-20
11/11	New	read chapter 21
11/18	Life	read chapter 22

The Pastor's Bible Study has met for a couple of weeks already, but it is never too late to join the study! This is an opportunity for the congregation to join the St. Paul's pastors as we all critically study different books of the Bible from different perspectives. Each week, two pastors will lead the webinar for the first 45 minutes and will take 15 minutes to answer questions that participants can send in during the webinar. This fall we are studying Revelation. Stay tuned for the next study that will start in the spring!

If you would like to join us or missed the first couple of weeks, you can register and watch replays of our webinars at www.stpaulshouston.org/study.

Families with Children

Watch for our children's weekly email on Wednesdays. Each week you'll get links for Sunday School, a Dropbox containing "any time" at-home activities, and information about upcoming news and events for kids.

To ensure receiving these emails, contact Rev. Kate Flint via kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Also, check the Children's Ministries Facebook Page for activity ideas and children's ministry news. St. Paul's website, too, especially the children's ministries page.

Gathering times

GROW (2nd-5th grades) meets at 9:45 am Sundays via Zoom.

Joyful Noise, the music and worship assembly for three-year-olds through 1st graders, and **Primary Children's Sunday School** meet on Sundays via Zoom, starting at 9:45 am. Connect via kflint@stpaulshouston.org or Anna Teagarden: ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org.



First Wesley Singers rehearsal, Fall 2020, via Zoom. Anna Teagarden, Director of Children's Music, conducts a weekly online schedule with each of the children's choirs plus one-on-one Voice for Life lessons for those interested. Schedule: Wesley Singers (Grades 1-2) Sundays at 4 pm Choristers (Grades 3-8) Sundays at 4:45 pm. Treble Choir (advanced treble voices) Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. For more information or to connect email ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org.

St. Paul's Among HISD's Sanctuaries of Learning

St. Paul's is among the churches in the Texas Annual Conference that has teamed up with the Houston Independent School District (HISD) to provide a Sanctuary of Learning. This project provides a safe space, internet access, and other resources, allowing parents to return to work and their children to continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Sanctuary of Learning at St. Paul's is located in Abraham Station, where the Rutabaga After-School Program has long been held. St. Paul's also has long provided volunteer mentors to nearby MacGregor Elementary School and provided other support to that school as well, such as the recent donation of more than \$12,100 and several laptops were collected to support the educational needs of these vulnerable children.

The Sanctuary of Learning project is the brainchild of the conference's Rev. Jill Daniel, who leads the bishop's "We Love All God's Children" initiative. Prior to that appointment, she had developed targeted ministries to meet the needs of children in the Trinity UMC Beaumont neighborhood. She also served with the National Head Start Association during the Clinton Administration with a special focus on the long-term effects of poverty on children in the South.

At this time, St. Paul's only provides the space, with HISD providing the personnel. The longer this service is needed, it may evolve to include or need other forms of assistance, including volunteers.

For more information about St. Paul's Sanctuary of Learning, please contact Rev. Kate Flint, Associate Pastor for Children's Ministries.

Youth Porch Parties

In October the Youth plan to start holding "porch parties" for up to 10 people.

If you can host a porch party, please contact Tiffin Wilsford (tiffin@stpaulshouston.org) for details.

From the Youth's September 20 "Do Mor Gud" gathering on the patio of Bodegas and Fia's, families went home with the components to make Manna Bags and their own yard signs. (See story and pictures, page 5.)

Associate Youth Director Oksana Schwack attended virtually from her home in New York, where she has been staying with her parents during much of this pandemic. She now is back in Houston.



The St. Paul's Treble Choir, led by Anna Teagarden, met for the first in-person rehearsal on Wednesday, September 30. Things had a different look but the same beautiful music was made.



Celebrate!

Are you looking for a way to celebrate a special occasion or a special person?

Consider a gift in their honor to the St. Paul's Foundation. You can mark a meaningful event like a baptism, birthday, or anniversary, or simply say "Thank You for being extraordinary!"

The honoree will receive a personalized card, mention in *St. Paul's Monthly Newsletter* and on the Foundation page of the website. Gifts will be designated for the General Fund of the Foundation.

We are excited to recognize John Feather as the first to be **Celebrated**. Members of the Roundtable Class celebrated him with gratitude and these kind words as he begins his new season as the leader of their class:

"We honor John Feather for his 33 years of Bible study with our class. John is a true Bible scholar, and we are most grateful for the wisdom he has imparted to us and for the community he has built in the class."

Congratulations, John! You are a leader in many ways.

If you would like to make a gift to one of St. Paul's Foundation's many different funds, you may do so at any time.

For more information or to donate, contact Mary Linda Portner via mlportner@stpaulshouston.org.



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON

PRIMETIMERS

Thursday, October 8
11:00 AM to Noon via Zoom

Gone to Texas: Part of the Nation's Immigration Story

Bullock Museum Educator, Robin Davis, will discuss the four primary waves of immigration to the United States through Texas from 1845-1924, the history behind the movement of people to Texas, stories from immigrants, and artifacts people brought along on the journey.

TO CONNECT CONTACT PRIMETIMERS@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG

Not unlike today's immigrants to Texas, be they from other parts of the United States or elsewhere in the world, the early settlers came here for many reasons, noble and ignoble. So many moved from the South, especially Tennessee, that "GTT" across deserted homes and barns became a shorthand "forwarding address."

The October 8 virtual gathering of the Primetimers and any other interested parties will take a look at this part of our nation's immigration story.

From Robin Davis at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, viewers will learn of the history behind the movement of people to Texas, hear interesting immigrant stories, and see artifacts that people brought with them on their journeys.

The gathering via Zoom will be on Thursday, October 8, at 11 am. To receive connecting information, please email primetimers@stpaulshouston.org by noon Tuesday, October 6.

Blessing of the Animals

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 @ 4:00 PM

Join us for this annual event, but with a twist!

From the safety of your cars, you and your beloved pets are invited to St. Paul's for a special blessing from St. Paul's clergy.

More details to come!



Going Forward

All Saints Sunday, November 1

Members of St. Paul's family or their partners who have died since All Saints Sunday 2019 will be remembered during morning worship on November 1 by the reading of their names, as listed below.

Ralph Baughman

Robert (Bob) Bell

Margaret Lloyd-Bingham

Gordon Bisel

Elmer Conrad (Buddy) Carroll

Louis Fantini

Thomas (Tom) Fort

Henry Gissel

Alfred Lazzeri

Betty Ruth Boyd Harper

Carlton Riley

Thelma Rowe

Levis (Racy) Sanford

To make corrections or additions, please contact Nina Hall via nina@stpaulshouston.org or 713-529-0527x113.



CHORAL SCHOLARS

POPS CONCERT

Sunday, November 22 @ 4 pm via webcast

A Meditation in Scripture and Chant for Advent

Friday, November 27, at 6 pm
via www.stpaulshouston.org/stream



Evening Prayer

FOR THE
FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Sunday, November 1, at 4:15 pm

JOIN US AT WWW.STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG/STREAM



JOY TO THE WORLD

A WALK THROUGH THE LESSONS
AND CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

We have exciting plans on the
way for Sunday evenings on
December 13 & 20!