

The Epistle from St. Paul's

Volume 62 | Number 7 | October 2019

Letter from the Senior Pastor

My dear friends:

It's not about winning.

Baseball fans might argue that point, especially as the playoffs begin. The whole purpose of playing 162 baseball games is to win enough of them to get to the post-season. And, once there, to keep winning all the way to the **World Series** in late **October**.

I've enjoyed baseball ever since my undistinguished Little League career. Even now my working definition of a pleasant summer evening is to listen to a baseball game on the radio while grilling hamburgers and hotdogs on the deck and watching the stars come out.

My **father-in-law** and I share the joy of this national pastime. This past summer Mr. Leonhardt came east from Akron to visit us for several days. While we enjoyed some of the area tourist sights, we mostly spent our evenings listening to baseball.

We were soon reminded, however, that we cheer for different teams. Since I live just a few miles away from the nation's capital, I root for the **Washington Nationals**. Being **Ohio** born and bred, the **Cleveland Indians** receive Mr. Leonhardt's unwavering allegiance. He had little interest in listening to my team, and I could not fathom paying attention to his while the Nationals were on.

We reached an agreeable détente by setting up **two radios**. My father-in-law listened to his team **inside** from the comfort of the couch, and I perched my radio and my team on the deck **outside**. We both pursued our passion, but did so in different parts of the house.

I recall that the Cleveland squad quite handily dispatched all of their opponents during that week of his visit. My beloved Nationals must have prevailed less frequently, as I recall being occasionally more **morose** than he.

The tables turned at the end of September, however. The Nationals played the Indians for the final three games of the season and the local boys swept the series to enter the playoffs with power.

Oddly enough, this victory was hollow to me. There was little celebrating on my deck, because in winning I knew someone I loved felt the sting of losing.

There are more games to play in October. In the end, one team will win and one team will lose. But, if it's all about winning and not about love, there will be no victors.

Light and peace in Jesus Christ,
A. B. Snell

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From the desk of Pastor Kate

Dear St. Paul's Family:

It's been "one of those days" for a lot of days now.

As I prepare my next sermon, it's becoming increasingly difficult to turn down or tune out the chaos of our world. Climate protests, impeachment proceedings, an entire flock of hurricanes churning along both coasts... it's hard to see good or find hope these days. We seek quiet and peace in our lives, but fall arrives like a colorful vortex of classes and work and activities and games that keep us so busy we can hardly catch our breath.

So what I'd like to offer to you this month, dear friends, is a prayer by my colleague Rev. Anjie Peek Woodworth, a UMC pastor in Atlanta, GA:

*"A Prayer When Overwhelmed"**

Merciful God, I am overwhelmed. I am worn out. I can't do all the things that must be done. I am empty and have nothing left to give.

Help me, God; please help me.

You are the one who brought light in the darkness and swept across the waters to bring order out of chaos. Do that here, today, God.

Show me just the very next step forward. Send me someone to remind me I'm not alone. Show me one task I can handle or just the next step that is in front of me.

Help me remember that you love me because I am, not because of what I do. Be with me in this moment, God. I can't go on without you. Be with me here and now. Amen.

May this prayer bless you in the days and weeks ahead.

Peace,

Pastor Kate

* Published in *We Pray With Her: Encouragement for All Women Who Lead*, ed. Emily Peck-McClain et al. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2018), 208.

Lectionary

October 6 - 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

World Communion Sunday

Preaching: Rev. Adam B. Snell

October 13 - Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Preaching: Rev. Adam B. Snell

October 20 - Luke 18:1-8

Preaching: Micah Smartt

October 27 - Ezra 3:8-13

Preaching: Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton

November 3 - Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

All Saints

Preaching: Rev. Adam B. Snell

November 10 - Haggai 1:15b-2:9

Preaching: Rev. Adam B. Snell

November 17 - Isaiah 65:17-25

Preaching: Rev. Adam B. Snell

November 24 - Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Preaching: Rev. Adam B. Snell

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STAY CONNECTED

If you don't already receive our weekly emails or monthly Epistle newsletter, contact the church office to subscribe.

Congregational Care

Notes and Thanks

Dear Rev. Snell, Pastor Kate, and Friends at St. Paul's,

I'm very grateful for your prayers, emails, calls, and cards. I so appreciate your offers of support and kind wishes. The altar flowers were lovely.

I'm improving daily with P.T. and am looking forward to joining you at St. Paul's soon.

Warm wishes,
Carolyn Litsinger

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

From the many many good wishes and speedy recovery cards I received from you all, I feel the loving, caring presence of our Lord. Thanks to all; you have been with me even as I struggled with my new realities. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,
Sue Roberts

Dear Rev. Snell, Pastor Kate, and the entire congregation of St. Paul's:

I want to thank you all for the last 9 months of your concerns and prayers for myself and my great-granddaughter Cayden. After 9 months in the hospital Cayden is now home for the past month and continues to improve. She still will need another heart surgery sometime in the near future. As for myself, I have had 2 surgeries and continue to improve, but like Cayden it will take time. It is so wonderful to have a Church Family like St. Paul's when you need help and prayers.

Again, thank you so much - and now please pray for my wife Sheila who is worn out from taking care of me.

Gil Clark

Dear St. Paul's Family,

Thank you so much for all the telephone calls, cards, messages and even a pizza delivered at lunch time, that I received while I was out with my hip replacement surgery. I want to especially thank Adam for coming up to the hospital and sitting with me, my son, and a granddaughter while waiting to be called to get "the show on the road." I have learned over the years of being a member of St. Paul's that Methodist prayers are pretty powerful things and they worked their magic again this time. I am very appreciative. Thank you very much.

Nancy Schallhorn

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

~Galatians 6:2

Celebration

Special flowers graced the altar during the month of August to celebrate the birth of

Joanna Marie Quinby
granddaughter of
Mary Lou Dungan.



Send a Card

The following St. Paul's friends would appreciate your thoughts and expressions of care...

Mrs. Dorothea Depenbrock
6602 Greyswood Road
Larmax Home
North Bethesda MD 20817

Mrs. Christine King
4029 Adams Drive
Wheaton MD 20902

Mrs. Becky Little
Oak Park Arms
408 S. Oak Park Ave., #311
Oak Park IL 60302

Tom & Martha Marshall
1311 Ednor Rd.
Silver Spring MD 20905

Mrs. Esther McCraw
185 Pine Haven Shores Rd.
#4101
Shelburne VT 05482

Ms. Susie Propes
3301 S. Leisure World Blvd.
Apt. #2E
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Mrs. Hazel Wright
333 Russell Ave.
Kindley Bldg. Rm. #407
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Christian Education

Adult Education Leaders

Our programming for adults is well underway, with three Supper & Study classes, two long-term studies, and ongoing weekly opportunities, such as the Tuesday Lectionary Bible Study and FaithFlix. We recognized the teachers and leaders who make our programs possible on Christian Education Sunday, September 15.

Meg Baker

Mary Lou Dungan

Grace Graham

Deanna Hodgson

Kate Mackereth Fulton

Joe Mangin

Sandy Mangin

Bob Nordstrom

Anne Rush

Vern Schinski

Adam Snell

Arceli Suley

Sue Ellen Tindle

Brian Walden

Therese Walden

FaithFlix:

Exploring our Faith Through Film

Please join this time of food, film, and fellowship in the Parlor on Sundays, 11:45 AM –12:45 PM. Each Faithflix session, facilitated by Joe Mangin, is an independent event so feel free to participate on a drop-in basis. Participants enjoy a light lunch together while watching a short faith-provoking film, followed by guided discussion. Just come as you are able!



Taste & Sing



Please join us for this month's Taste & Sing, a time of enjoying music, prayer, lunch and fellowship, on Tuesday, October 15. We will open with an opportunity to share a few of our favorite hymns, then move into a short program focused on the life and work of a specific composer or lyricist behind some of our most beloved and interesting worship songs.

Join our praying, playing, singing staff Pastor Kate, Meg Baker, and Erin Steele in the Octagon starting at 12:00 pm and stay for a tasty lunch provided by Ginny Hagberg. There is no registration, no musical experience needed, and no cost to attend, although donations for lunch are welcome.

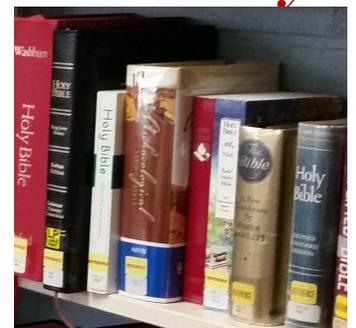
Prayer Lift

Prayer Lift gathers each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the DuVall Chapel to lift up the prayer requests of the St. Paul's community. Please join us as you are able!



Lectionary Bible Study

Lectionary Bible Study is held each Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. in the Library. All are welcome at this drop-in study led by Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton and St. Paul's staff. There is no registration or fee, and visitors are welcome.

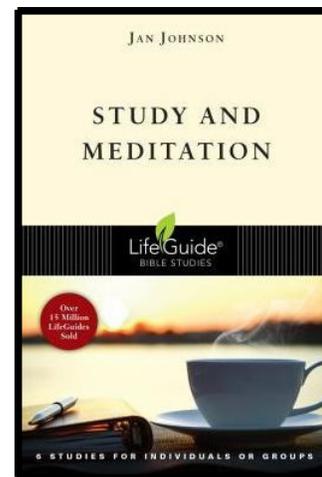


Education and Library

New Short-Term Adult Study

Text: *Study & Meditation* by Jan Johnson
Led by Meg Baker
Wednesdays, October 9 - November 13
4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Library

Reading the Bible is one of the most important disciplines we can practice, and the way we approach the Bible affects our interaction with God. In these six sessions, we will explore — and practice — the disciplines of Bible study and meditation, going deeper into God’s Word and learning to immerse ourselves in God’s thoughts. The cost of the book is \$10. For more information or to register, please contact Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org or 301-933-7933 ext. 104.



Biblical Archaeology Forum: Restoration at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



This community group’s monthly lectures bring together leading Bible scholars and archaeologists to broaden our understanding of the Biblical world.

On Wednesday, October 23, the Bender JCC (6125 Montrose Road, Rockville MD) will host “Restoration at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre” at 8:00 p.m., a lecture by Kristin Romey, editor and writer covering archaeology and culture for the National Geographic Society.

General admission is \$10, college students \$5, and high school students with ID receive free admission. Visit jccgw.org/baf or call 301-881-0100 for more information.

Since 2016, a team from National Geographic has been documenting the restoration of the Edicule at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem. The Church has been a major Christian pilgrimage destination since its creation in the fourth century CE, as the traditional site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus (thus, its original Greek name, Church of the Resurrection). This presentation will illustrate the restoration of the Edicule and demonstrate what science has revealed about the origins and construction of the monument.

Search our Library Catalog - Online!

Our church library catalog is now accessible online!

From the stpaulsk.org home page, click on Community and scroll down to Library. You will be taken to the library page where you can scroll down for the link to access our library catalog. You can also go there directly: www.stpaulsk.org/community/library

It is a simple search box! Try using an author's name, or part of the title. A list of items in our collection will appear. Click on a selected item and you will also see the specific subject headings assigned to that book.



We hope that the online catalog will prove useful and convenient to all. The mission of our library collection is to help enhance our study of the bible, strengthen our Christian faith, and provide resources on current social issues and mission work. We have biographies, fiction, books for young adults and children, as well as a reference area. We are blessed to have this library space centrally located in our church. We hope you will browse online and stop by our church library to check out a book soon!

St. Paul's and the Community

Community Pancake Breakfast

The breakfast on October 5 will benefit the Mid-County United Ministries, a local, grass-roots non-profit organization that provides emergency food and assistance to people in crisis. The specialty pancake in October is Buckwheat. Our November 2 breakfast will benefit Wesley Theological Seminary. Pancake Breakfasts are made possible by the UMM and volunteers.

Remember, our pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, ham, and grits nourish the soul and have little effect on the waistline! There is no fixed charge for breakfast; rather, we ask for a free will donation. Read more: <http://stpaulsk.org/community/pancake-breakfast>



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR
Friendship Club!
First Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 11:30 AM

By long tradition, the community-wide Friendship Club meets at St. Paul's on the second Tuesday of the month, October-May, in Heavener Hall. This is a community of seniors representing over a dozen local congregations.

Come enjoy this time of fellowship as we make our golden years great years! Bring your favorite dish for a potluck meal, stay for some brief updates about the group's business, and enjoy entertainment from a variety of local singers, musicians, and actors. For more information, contact President Erma McWilliams (phone 301-774 - 2742, email Emcwill436@aol.com).

Hunger Ministry

The Hunger Ministry's monthly Communion Collect takes place the first Sunday of the month. Nonperishable items are welcome in the bins in the Narthex any time. Grocery store gift cards (\$15 value, Safeway or Giant) and monetary donations may be placed in the Hunger Ministry drop box in the office. Food sorting will take place on Sunday, October 6 following each worship service.

Distribution Night will be Monday, October 7 when our neighbors in need receive groceries, a hot meal, books for children, and fellowship. To volunteer, contact Dawn Ely (dawn.c.ely@gmail.com). Thank you for helping provide food for 110+ hungry families who live throughout the 20895 ZIP code area. Visit <http://stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry> to read more.

Preventing Fraud & Identity Theft

Monday, October 28
7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Octagon
sponsored by the Stephen Ministry

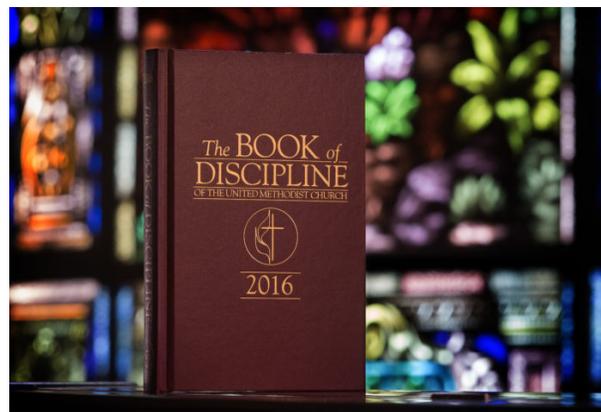


AARP Speaker Ted Meyerson will present "Fraud, Identify Theft and the AARP Fraud Watch Network." The program looks at how, by committing scams and stealing identities, thieves steal billions of dollars from millions of people. Mr. Meyerson will suggest ways to protect yourself and introduce the AARP Fraud Watch Network, an online resource that can keep you aware of current fraud and scamming activity. While this presentation is a part of St. Paul's Stephen Ministry continuing education program, it is open to all congregants who would like to attend. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Meg Baker, mbaker@stpaulsk.org, 301-933-7933 ext. 104.

A Way Forward at St. Paul's

Frequently Asked Questions: Understanding the Reconciling Process

Pastor Kate and members of the Steering Team prepared a handout to help members and friends understand more about St. Paul's way forward and the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). The full handout is available in the church office. Highlights are provided here. A Special Church Conference will be held at St. Paul's on **October 13**. Members who are present will vote on whether or not to begin the process that leads to joining the RMN.



Why are we having this conversation?

In 2019, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church narrowly voted to 1) maintain the current language in the *Book of Discipline* describing "homosexuality [as] incompatible with Christian teaching," 2) continue the prohibition on clergy conducting same-sex marriages, 3) continue the prohibition on LGBTQ Christians serving as clergy, and 4) establish strengthened penalties against clergy who violate the *Book of Discipline*. The proposals put forth at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference and the outcome of the vote prompted our congregation to ask an important question: "What kind of church does God call St. Paul's UMC to be?"

Following the outcome of the 2019 General Conference, the Church Council chartered a series of Small Groups for Discernment (i.e., Processing Groups) with more than 180 participants. After reviewing the reports from the small groups, the Church Council determined significant interest in moving forward with possible membership in the Reconciling Ministries Network. Although a majority of participants in the small groups expressed support for building a more inclusive church, there was not a consensus on what such inclusion would look like.

What is Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)?

The Reconciling Ministries Network is a network of over 40,000 United Methodists and over 1,000 church communities seeking the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, in both the policy and practices of the United Methodist Church. Any individual, small group, or congregation can join RMN. Churches that are members of RMN must still abide by the *Book of Discipline*, but are committed to "change from the inside." As a member of RMN, St. Paul's UMC would retain complete authority over worship, programming, and other aspects of our community.

What is the process for joining RMN?

Churches are encouraged to undergo a discernment process including Bible study, sermon series, small group discussion, and prayer. To join, congregations must hold a church vote resulting in at least 75 percent in favor of RMN membership. Congregations must craft a welcoming statement that explicitly references LGBTQ inclusion.

Why are we having two votes – one to begin exploring RMN, and another one to vote on joining RMN?

The St. Paul's Steering Committee used a questionnaire developed by Reconciling Works, an association of Lutheran churches, to determine how fast or slow we should engage in this process. Our score on this congregational assessment placed us between a "cautious" and "medium" pace. Responses revealed that we have a substantial amount of work to do before putting RMN membership to a church vote. Although a large number of members participated in the processing groups and expressed an interest in building a more inclusive church, we do not yet have an actual mandate to do the necessary work. An initial church vote will provide that mandate.

Why must members vote in person?

The *Book of Discipline* has strict guidelines for holding church conference votes. They must be in person (i.e., no mail-in or proxy ballots) and supervised by church elders assigned by the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Are we voting to get rid of the Book of Discipline or leave the UMC?

No. The church vote on October 13 will decide whether we should begin the task of applying to join the RMN. At this time, St. Paul's UMC remains a congregation of the United Methodist Church and abides by the *Book of Discipline*. This is not a vote about leaving the denomination.

A Way Forward at St. Paul's

Frequently Asked Questions: More about the Reconciling Process

More frequently asked questions....

Why are we “rushing” to a vote before decisions are made at the 2020 General Conference?

The next General Conference in 2020 may result in a formal split of the denomination. At that time, St. Paul's UMC will need to decide again on a path to pursue, building on the foundation we have built through our recent discernment processes. We are electing to have that conversation now on our own terms, rather than later when forced by action at the General Conference.

The initial vote on October 13 will take place on Columbus Day weekend. Can we reschedule?

Due to the advance notice requirements for such a meeting (as given in the *Book of Discipline*) and the limited number of elders available to preside, changing the date is not a reasonable option. The Steering Committee did our best to find a date that allows us to give ample notice and that does not conflict with our existing church schedule, including programming around Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. We understand that not everyone will be able to attend the initial vote to begin exploring membership in RMN. If the October vote puts us on a path toward RMN membership, the Church Council will identify a date in 2020 for the next vote.

Why can't St. Paul's disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church right now?

Under current rules, St. Paul's UMC would need to buy its property (i.e., real estate) from the denomination. The Finance Committee determined that the cost to disaffiliate with our property would be approximately **\$6 million**, too high for our congregation to afford at this time. The 2020 General Conference will consider a proposal to make it easier for local congregations to disaffiliate from the denomination with their property (i.e., a graceful exit). This may mean a reduction in the percentage of fair market value or the elimination of payment entirely.

Upcoming: Special Church Conference

**October 13
12:00 noon
Sanctuary of St. Paul's UMC**

A vote will be held at this time on whether or not to begin the Reconciling process. All confirmed members of St. Paul's UMC are eligible to vote; members must be present to vote per the *Book of Discipline* (¶248). The entire community is welcome to attend.



Previous Events:

Video recordings available at stpaulsk.org/community/the-way-forward

Info Session (Sept. 22)

A discussion about what the Reconciling Ministries Network is, and why the Reconciling Team at St. Paul's believes this is a good step for our congregation.

Samoan Circle (Sept. 29)

A Samoan Circle is a way of sharing information around a controversial topic. Congregants who have a variety of viewpoints participated in a panel. Each had a few minutes to share answers to questions crafted in advance by the steering committee regarding their sense of faith, community, and St. Paul's.

A Way Forward at St. Paul's

The Monitor and Engage Team has provided summaries of the four cases they believe most likely to have outcomes which will directly affect local churches and annual conferences in reference to recent General Conference decisions. For a complete docket listing, please visit <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/judicial-council-october-2019-docket>

Docket #3 is a petition from the Council of Bishops requesting a "declaratory decision" on questions regarding the Traditional Plan, as adopted at the 2019 General Conference (GC):

- (1) whether the expanded definition of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" applies to persons who have already been ordained under previous definitions of that term
 - (2) whether the expanded definition is unconstitutional because the categories of "living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union" do not allow for the presumption that a person is "practicing" to be rebutted
 - (3) whether the phrase "or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination" is unconstitutional since the certification requirement in Petition 90038 has been ruled unconstitutional
 - (4) whether the binding civil law in an annual conference stating that no person can be suspended without pay supercedes the mandatory minimum penalty of one year's suspension without pay in Petition 90042
 - (5) if the answer to the above question is "no," whether this is unconstitutional since it cannot be applied equally to all persons found guilty of the same offense
-

Docket #4 is a petition from the Council of Bishops requesting declaratory decision as to the constitutionality, meaning, application and effect of the new Paragraph 2553 in the Book of Discipline. This paragraph addresses disaffiliation of local churches over issues related to human sexuality (2019 GC, chapter 6, section VIII), but does not specify when the paragraph takes effect.

Docket #10 is a petition from **Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling** regarding these questions of law, emerging from actions taken during the 2019 Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference:

- (1) whether the clergy session violated the Discipline by deciding to approve a group of candidates for ordination, and another group for commissioning, rather than voting on a candidate-by-candidate basis
- (2) whether the motion to vote on clergy candidates as a group was itself approved by the requisite majority
- (3) whether "the two candidates in question are properly candidates for commissioning and ordination"



Docket #16 is a petition from Rev. Karen Martin Tichenor (Alaska UM Conference), requesting declaratory decision regarding the constitutionality, meaning, application, and effect of the Discipline as it relates to the AUMC's proposed action to withdraw from The United Methodist Church:

- (1) Does Judicial Council Decision 1366 (*JCD 1366*) recognize and articulate that annual conferences have conditional authority to withdraw from the UMC?
 - (2) Does *JCD 1366* provide that the conditions of authority for withdrawal of an annual conference may be specified by the General Conference (GC), under its authority provided in Paragraph 16.3, at its discretion?
 - (3) Is it the case that the GC at this time has specified no conditions that apply to the withdrawal of an annual conference?
 - (4) In the absence of conditions for withdrawal specified by the GC, is an annual conference free to establish for itself the conditions of withdrawal under its authority provided in Paragraph 33 as the basic body of the Church?
 - (5) Does Paragraph 586 provide to the AUMC, a missionary conference created by the GC, the authority of an annual conference in the matter of withdrawal from the UMC, since withdrawal is not one of the seven enumerated exceptions to the authority granted to missionary conferences?
 - (6) Does *JCD 1366* grant an annual conference the authority to effect the concomitant withdrawal of the local churches included within its boundaries?
-

UMM, Still Wednesday, Craft Fair

“The purpose of the United Methodist Men is to engage in a variety of Christ-centered activities for the benefit of the ministries, programs, and activities of the church and its members.”

Men's Breakfast

We are replacing our usual October Men's Supper with a Saturday breakfast!

In an effort to include more men of the church, we will hold a free Men's Breakfast on Saturday, October 19 at 8:00 a.m. We will include fine food, great fellowship, and prayer opportunities, and will be done by 9:30. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sign up in the church office, and please bring a friend!



The UMM has given a substantial gift to UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) to support its hurricane relief efforts. This support is made possible by your support of the fundraising activities we sponsor throughout the year.

Don't forget:

We include all male members and friends of St. Paul's as members of The United Methodist Men. There are no dues or fees to join – so come and be with us!



The Fall Yard Sale & Boutique will be November 15-16, with receiving day on Thursday, November 14. Gather your treasures, mark your calendar, and please plan to help out! Without you, none of this happens.



The Apple Sale will coincide with the Yard Sale days. Since we are having the sale in November instead of October this year, we may have some new apple varieties to offer.

Still Wednesday

If you would like to have a quiet respite, some peaceful time of reflection, an opportunity to be open to the Holy Spirit, you are invited to come and check out Still Wednesday. Bring your desire for stillness and God's loving and eternal presence in this weekly offering of reflection, silence and prayer. Join us each Wednesday evening, 7:00-8:00 p.m. for this alternative weekly worship opportunity.

Save the date for a special Still Wednesday! Join us on November 6 at 7:00 p.m. for Drumming with Katy Gaguhan.

For more information, please contact Kenzie Raulin at kenzier@rcn.com or (301) 237-1520.

Craft Fair

There is still time to get ready for St. Paul's Fall Craft Fair! The next annual St. Paul's craft fair will be held Saturday, November 2 during the Pancake Breakfast, and on Sundays, November 3 & 10 in the Narthex after worship.

All crafters are invited to donate craft items which will be accepted in October. All types of crafts are gratefully accepted. Past sales have included needle work, quilted or knit items, woodworking, photos, greeting cards, paintings, pottery, decorations, jewelry, preserves, books, etc. All the proceeds from the Craft Fair sales will be donated to worthy causes to help those in need.

If you have any questions, donations, or would like to suggest a charity to receive the funds, please contact Mary Revenis (mrevenis@cnmc.org or telephone 301-951-8470), Helen Quave (hquave@yahoo.com), or Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com).

St. Paul's Youth

SPY is open to all friends of St. Paul's in grades 6-12.



Halloween Parties

On Sunday, October 27, come in costume for our annual Halloween party. We'll be running on a normal youth schedule that day, but we'll be sure to have all sorts of fun games, snacks, and a costume contest in each group! Look for more details in the SPY BRIEFING, our youth newsletter!

The SPY Network

Are you receiving our communications? If you aren't seeing our *SPY Weekly Update* in your email, or aren't receiving the *SPY BRIEFING*, our monthly print newsletter, please contact Youth Pastor Micah Smartt (msmartt@stpaulsk.org) to be added to our distribution lists!

Middle High Retreat

Sign up by: October 27
Retreat: November 1-3
Camp Manidokan
Cost: \$85

Our Middle High Retreat, in the mountains near Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, always promises a fun time for all. This Fall, our retreat theme is "Created." We'll be looking into what the Bible says about the creation of the world and our role as creations within this world. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Youth Pastor Micah Smartt!



It's always the right time to become a SPY.

We've always got something fun going on at our weekly meetings, so come and join in the fun! Whether you've been gone for a while, have not joined us yet, or are with us every week, we love to see you on Sunday!

Weekly programming runs from 4:30 to 6:00 for our Middle High SPY (6th - 8th Grade), and 6:45 - 8:30 for Senior High SPY (9th-12th Grade). In between the two groups, we have a drop-off/pick up period - or you could join our youth choir which rehearses 6:00 - 6:45.

We had the opportunity during Christian Education Sunday to celebrate the time and talents of those who stand at the fore of faith formation for people of all ages. St. Paul's is thankful for our 2019-2020 Youth Leaders:

Jay Codner
Holly Smartt
Micah Smartt



Children's Ministry

Congratulations, Third Graders!

As is our tradition, St. Paul's presented personalized Bibles to our third grade students during the 10:30 worship service on September 15:

Aiden Bazawada
Kaitlyn I. Coale
Katie Dean
Foster Dunn
David Edelstein

William Shanahan Jeffreys
Addison Claire Lipford
Keira Ruhlen
Thomas Simpson
Kai Takata

Sunday School Teachers 2019-2020

Margarita Bartley
Reena Bazawada
Sarah Beck
Martha Frances Burak
Hans Chen
Sandie Chen
Billy Coale
Raquel Coale
Sharon Coale
Jay Codner
Carol Davies
Ashley Derr
Amy Frontz
Leigha Gordillo
Alice Graham
Jennie Lipford
Ryan Lipford
Pat Maloney
Sandy Mangin
Wendy Manning
Ruth Melson
Kim Minarik
Kathy Mullens
Linda O'Reilly
Emily Petrus
Erin Richmond
Emily Sama-Miller
Micah Smartt
Emily Smith
Susie Snell
Bill Stephens
Kathleen Stephens
David Weaver
Abby White

Children's Choir

All children in grades K-5 are encouraged to participate in this fun time of music-making. Choir rehearsals are held from 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Sundays in the Multipurpose Room. A snack will be provided.

This choir prepares and presents an anthem during the 10:30 worship service once a month on Children's Sunday.

We will also be gearing up for the Christmas Pageant soon! Please contact Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org or 301-933-7933 ext. 104 with any questions.



Sunday School Leader Recognition

This fall's Sunday School season is off to a great start at St. Paul's! It has been a thrill to see the education wing come alive with children excited to be there and teachers eager to greet them.

We had the opportunity during Christian Education Sunday to celebrate the time and talents of the many who stand at the fore of faith formation for people of all ages – from preschoolers to nonagenarians. We are very grateful for their service!

Questions?

Contact Meg Baker, Director of Christian Education.
mbaker@stpaulsk.org, 301-933-7933 ext. 104

Check it out!

You have probably sung the song, "This Little Light of Mine," right? Well, the Bible tells us that we should let our light shine so that people will see our good works and praise our heavenly Father. Look in the Gospel of Matthew (the first book of the New Testament) and find chapter 5, then read verses 14-16 and see if you can fill in the blanks below.



You are the _____ of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a _____ puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the _____. In the same way, let your light _____ before others, so that they may see your good works and give _____ to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

So, go ahead, sing that song... and shine on!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine *(sing 3 times)*
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
 Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna' let it shine *(sing 3 times)*
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
 Everywhere I go, I'm gonna' let it shine *(sing 3 times)*
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE...
 These Scripture passages are also quite enlightening:
 Psalm 119:105, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Psalm 27:1

A Pumpkin Prayer

Here's a little prayer you can pray while pumpkin carving:

Cut off the top:

Lord, open my mind and fill me with your wisdom and guidance.

Scoop out the yuckies:

Lord, take out all of my fussies and frownies and fill me with your love.

Carve out the eyes:

Lord, open up my eyes to see all of the beautiful things you have made.

Carve out the nose:

Lord, help me be a sweet fragrance for you.

Carve out the mouth:

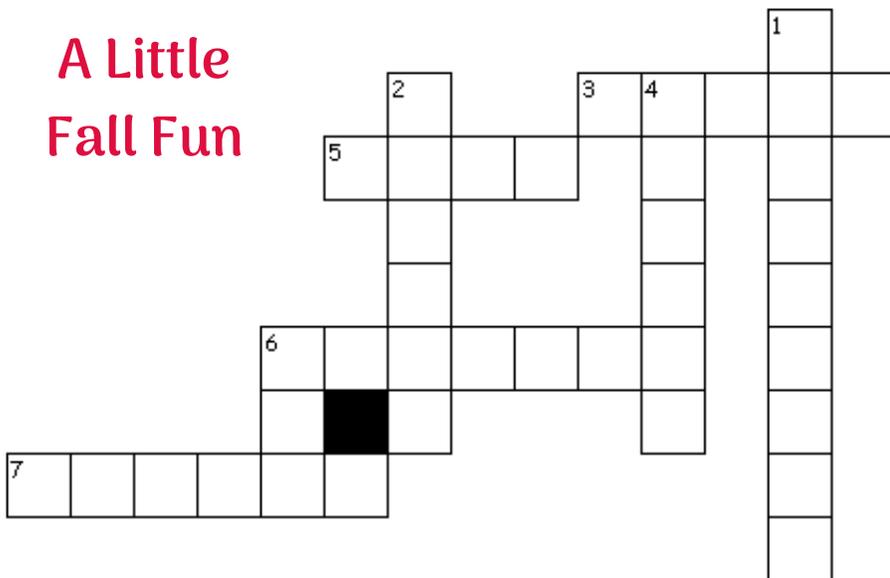
Lord, help me to always speak your words of love and kindness.

Place a candle inside:

Lord, let me be a light to others, for you have filled me with your light. Amen!



A Little Fall Fun



ACROSS

- 3. the place where pumpkins grow
- 5. what we often do in a pile of leaves
- 6. a large rounded orange-yellow fruit
- 7. those things that drop from the trees in the fall

DOWN

- 1. a raggedy figure placed in open fields to discourage birds from eating seed
- 2. another word for the fall season
- 4. squirrels go nuts over these
- 6. pumpkin tastes really good when it's cooked in one of these

The Denominational Split of Methodism, 1844

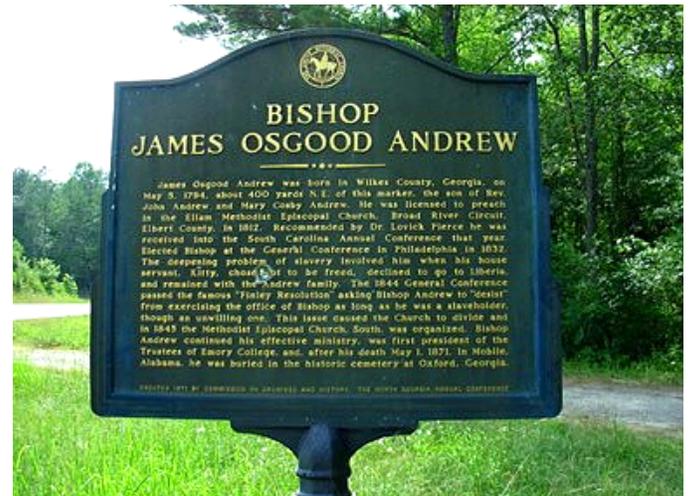
On May 1, 1845, the first General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, met in Louisville, Kentucky. That denomination would exist until the creation of The Methodist Church with the merger of the two Methodist Episcopal denominations and the Methodist Protestant Church in 1939.

The cause of this near century old split was slavery. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was much opposed to slave ownership in the American colonies, and he urged the slave owners to free their slaves. Despite this, the ownership of slaves persisted, with owners claiming that the Bible acknowledged slavery.

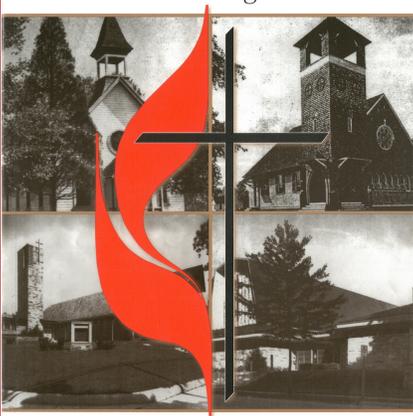
The issue came to a head when a southern Bishop, James Osgood Andrew, married a woman who owned a slave. He already owned one, but allowed her to work independently. But now he owned two, despite the prohibition of slave ownership by Methodist clergy. The General Conference of 1844 suspended Bishop Andrew until he freed his slaves. The southern delegates disputed the authority of the General Conference to discipline Bishops. That led to the May 1845 meeting in Louisville and the beginning of the MECS.

Remnants of this split persist today. The Southern Methodist Church was formed in 1940 by a group of conservative members unhappy with the union of the three denominations that formed The Methodist Church. Today the Church's headquarters and a four-year Bible college are located in Orangeburg, SC. The denomination has less than a hundred churches with several thousand members.

For more information about this article or the St. Paul's History Committee, please contact Jack Lipscomb at jlipscomb@verizon.net or (301) 774-2761. The price of the History Book is \$10.



The Spirit of Methodism
in Kensington



1885-2007

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
Kensington, Maryland

History Book

Our award-winning history book is a trove of information about St. Paul's, full of interesting historical photos and stories about our church and community. Read about everything from musical performances at the White House to cream pies being thrown at a former pastor, and from our start in a barn to the construction of our current Sanctuary.

Copies are available for \$10. Contact Jack Lipscomb at jlipscomb@verizon.net or (301) 774-2761.

CORRECTION

Last month's History Article about the mother of John and Charles Wesley contained an error. Susanna's husband was named Samuel Wesley. His name was not John, as the second and third sentences stated. We regret the error.

Calendar

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Schedule changes may occur after this calendar is published. Please check with your group leader if you have any questions. This calendar shows only St. Paul's events. Other groups who use the building (Scouts, 12-step groups, Brookewood) are not included here.		1 9am Christian Faith 101 10am Prayer Lift 10:45am Lectionary Bible Study 6:15pm Supper & Study Meal 7pm Adult Ed Classes 7pm Disciple I	2 10:30am Martha Circle 6:45pm Joyful Ringers! 7pm Lydia Circle 7pm Still Wednesday	3 6pm Lay Leadership Committee 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	4 4:30pm Wedding Rehearsal 6pm SPY Senior High Retreat depart for Camp Manidokan	5 8pm Pancake Breakfast 10am Pie with the Pastors 4:30pm Raulin-Carney Wedding
6 9am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am Children's Sunday School 11:45am FaithFlix 11:45am Food Sorting 11:45am Youth Sunday School 11:45am Children's Choir 3:30pm Senior High SPY return from retreat	7 6:45pm Hunger Ministry Volunteer Arrival Time 7:30pm Food Distribution & Dinner	8 9am Christian Faith 101 10am Prayer Lift 10:45am Lectionary Bible Study 11am Friendship Club 6:15pm Supper & Study Meal 7pm Adult Ed Classes 7pm Disciple I	9 4pm Adult Ed: Study & Meditation 6:45pm Joyful Ringers! 7pm Still Wednesday	10 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	11 2pm Wedding Rehearsal	12 11am Rogers-McWilliams Wedding
13 9am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship 10:45am Children's Sunday School 12pm Way Fwd: Congregational Vote on Reconciling Ministries 4:30pm Middle High SPY 6pm Youth Choir 6:45pm Senior High SPY	14 10:30am Staff Meeting 12pm Sanctuary Lighting Assessment 7pm Yarn Ministry	15 9am Christian Faith 101 10am Prayer Lift 10:45am Lectionary Bible Study 12pm Taste & Sing 6:15pm Supper & Study Meal 7pm Adult Ed Classes 7pm Disciple I	16 4pm Adult Ed: Study & Meditation 6:45pm Joyful Ringers! 7pm Still Wednesday	17 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	18 No church activities scheduled.	19 8am Men's Breakfast
20 9am Worship & Communion 9am Joyful Ringers! 10:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Sunday School 11:45am FaithFlix 11:45am Youth Sunday School 11:45am Children's Choir + Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 4:30pm Middle High SPY 6pm Youth Choir 6:45pm Senior High SPY	21 No church activities scheduled.	22 9am Christian Faith 101 10am Prayer Lift 10:45am Lectionary Bible Study 7pm Disciple I	23 4pm Adult Ed: Study & Meditation 6:45pm Joyful Ringers! 7pm Still Wednesday 7pm Adult Ed Committee Meeting	24 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	25 No church activities scheduled.	26 No church activities scheduled.
27 9am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Sunday School 11:45am SPRC Meeting 11:45am FaithFlix 11:45am Youth Sunday School 11:45am Children's Choir + Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 4:30pm Middle High SPY 6pm Youth Choir 6:45pm Senior High SPY	28 10:30am Staff Meeting 7pm Stephen Ministers + Fraud & Identity Theft Presentation 7pm Yarn Ministry	29 9am Christian Faith 101 10am Prayer Lift 10:45am Lectionary Bible Study 7pm Disciple I	30 4pm Adult Ed: Study & Meditation 6:45pm Joyful Ringers! 7pm Still Wednesday 7pm Justice & Compassion Committee Meeting	31 Halloween 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	Do you have news to share about an activity at St. Paul's? Submit articles for The Epistle to stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org by October 15 to have them included in next month's edition!	



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

10401 Armory Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895
301-933-7933 • stpaulsk.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Worship and Communion in the Sanctuary. Nursery care available.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary. Sunday School and nursery care available.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Still Wednesday in the Sanctuary or Octagon.

Epistle Options

Email (color)

Send an email to
stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org to be added
to the email list.

Download (color)

Go to the St. Paul's website at
<http://stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news>

Mail (black & white)

Contact the church office to be added to
the mailing list.

Pick Up (black & white)

Copies are available in the Narthex and
church office.

October 2019

