



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Grace Notes

JULY 14, 2024

www.stpaulsrva.org

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THIS SUNDAY @ ST. PAUL'S

Children's Chapel | This summer's theme is "Edge of Your Seat Bible Stories", available during the sermon for children 3 years through 5th Grade. We'll learn about a few of the heroes of the Bible and the exciting situations they found themselves in. It will keep you "on the edge of your seat!".

Nursery | (Children 3 - 5 years old) Staffed 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM, the worship service can be heard within the Nursery. Changing table is available.

Rector's Bible Study | Norwood Room @ 9 AM. Join our clergy and volunteers as we explore the readings for Sunday worship. This informal setting offers the opportunity to ask questions, get to know others, and learn how to navigate the often- tricky and mysterious world of scripture. No prep work required.

UPDATES and HIGHLIGHTS

Evening Prayer | Join us on Facebook Live Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. for Evening Prayer.

Woodville Elementary Annual Back to School Supply Drive | It's time for our 2024 Back to School Drive! Inspire a future leader today! With the start of the 2024/2025 school year beginning earlier for Woodville Elementary on Monday, July 22, the time is now to donate. Join us in collecting new school supplies for Woodville students until Sunday, August 11th. You can drop off supplies in the Parish House. There will be a box for the supplies near the stairs to the second floor, across from the Welcome Table. Online financial contributions are also welcome to support Woodville students start off their school year well prepared. Please give [HERE](#). Help our Woodville Elementary School students feel cool going back to school! For more information please contact Sheena Mackenzie at sheenam510@gmail.com. Thank you for your donations and support!

Here is what we need:

- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Lined Paper
- Construction Paper
- Composition Books
- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox Wipes
- Tissues
- Scissors

Summer Bible & Book Discussion: First & Second Samuel and Geraldine Brooks' *The Secret Chord*, Monday August 26, 5:30

p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Norwood Room | Over the summer, our Sunday lectionary readings from First and Second Samuel follow the story of King David from young shepherd to heroic soldier, to beloved king. To compliment these readings, please join us as we read both the entirety of First & Second Samuel alongside *The Secret Chord*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Geraldine Brooks. Brooks' novel peels away the myth to bring David to life in Second Iron Age Israel from the perspective of his closest and most complicated relationships, including the prophet Nathan. The novel traces the arc of David's journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage. The Rev. Gwynn Crichton will lead us in the discussion. (Readings include scenes of graphic sex and violence.) Bring a brown bag dinner, if you choose. Please contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org for assistance with purchasing a copy of the book.

Holy Baptism offered with the Bishop's Visit on Sunday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. | We are delighted to welcome Bishop Stevenson on Sunday, Sept, 15, and it is a beautiful occasion for baptism! Please let us know if you would like to have an infant or child welcomed as a beloved child of God into the community of the Church. You can learn more about what is involved with baptism at St. Paul's here. Contact the Rev. Andie Rohrs, Associate for Pastoral Care (arohrs@stpaulsrva.org or (804) 545-5411) by Aug. 1 if you are interested.

Racial Justice & Healing Small Group Discussion: The Racial Wealth Gap in the United States Explained | Wednesday, August 21st, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | In this session, we look into the U.S. wealth gap between whites and African Americans. How was this gap created, and perpetuated over time? After watching a short YouTube video, participants consider: How have slavery, housing discrimination, and centuries of inequality compounded to create a racial wealth gap? Together we'll discuss how racism has negatively affected the economic conditions of African Americans, and seek to recognize current tools of economic violence. Please join us by registering here (<https://forms.gle/UVekyfxZqu81KQwB8>). Contact Steve Otto (steve.c.otto@gmail.com) for more information.

St. Paul's RISC Network General Interest and Year-In-Review Meeting on Sunday, August 11 @ 11:30 AM in Scott Hall | At this session, we will cover: What is RISC? How does it work? How can I get involved or stay involved? Plus, we will review RISC actions over last year as we plan for a new program year. Your feedback will be key. Turn your faith into local social justice action for the Richmond community with 24 other local congregations. Please join us! Bring a brown bag lunch. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook whitehurstcookmichelley@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Flower Arranging for Sunday Services | Please consider signing up to arrange a beautiful flower assortment one Sunday during the year. We are offering a simple flower arranging class for up to four people at a time, to ensure that everyone feels empowered to participate. Help us continue our ministry to foster beauty through God's creation at St. Paul's by signing up (bit.ly/stpaulsflowerarranging)!

Altar Flower Dedications | The beautiful flower arrangements

in the church are organized by the St. Paul's Altar/Flower Guild. Our weekly altar flowers are funded by flower dedications. These dedications are a loving way to remember a cherished family member or friend, or to give thanks for a wedding, birthday, anniversary or other occasions. The suggested donation is \$85. We have the following Sundays available for flower dedications: August 18, September 1 and October 27. Your gift supports a vital part of the life of St. Paul's. Contact Carter Johann at cjohann@stpaulsrva.org or 804-643-3589.

Dr. Christopher Alan Graham wins 2024 AASLH Award of Excellence for Faith, Race, and the Lost Cause: Confessions of Southern Church | The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the Dr. Christopher Alan Graham (known to us as "Chris") is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for Faith, Race, and the Lost Cause: Confessions of a Southern Church. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. Chris' narrative—which emerged out of St. Paul's History and Reconciliation Initiative—charts the congregation's theological and secular views of race from the church's founding in 1845 to the present day, exploring the church's complicity in Lost Cause narratives and racial oppression in Richmond. If you would like to read Chris' book, you may obtain a copy from the church (contact Rev. Gwynn Crichton) or order online (bit.ly/fralc). Chris will receive this prestigious award at the AASLH annual meeting in Mobile, Alabama on September 13th. Congratulations, Chris, and thank you for sharing your spiritual gifts and academic expertise to so generously and faithfully tell the truth of St. Paul's racial history through this powerful book.

Sylvia's Sisters Pizza and Period Packing Party, Wednesday, August 14th, 5 PM until 6:30 PM in Scott Hall | This year, 1 in 4 girls will miss school because they don't have period supplies. Sylvia's Sisters (sylviasisters.org) fights period poverty—the inability to afford or access menstrual products—by providing period product kits to schools and organizations in Central Virginia. St. Paul's has partnered with Sylvia's Sisters through our successful May Period Product Drive where parishioners generously donated more than 6,000 pads, tampons, and liners! Thanks so much to all who donated to this drive! Now, we will partner again with Sylvia's Sisters to host a Period

Packing Party on Wednesday, August 14th to pack kits that contain enough products to last one person for one month. Stations will be set up where volunteers can pack kits (all supplies will be provided). After we finish packing the kits, we will all enjoy hot pizza and fellowship together. All ages are welcome! Please register [HERE](https://bit.ly/periodpackingparty) (bit.ly/periodpackingparty) if you can join us. Contact Lisa Guthrie (lismg1@aol.com) for more information.

Emmaus Item Spotlight - Wipe Out! | After our successful wipe-a-thon last Fall we weren't sure we'd ever need wipes again. However we have finally used up every last bag and must restock. We are creating individual bags of wipes from large packs which can be purchased through our Amazon Wishlist (<https://a.co/gD618W6>). Please have them shipped directly to St. Paul's (St. Paul's Emmaus Program, 815 E Grace St, Richmond VA, 23219). Please indicate that it is a gift shipment and include your name so that we may thank you! We also continue to need plastic grocery bags, please drop them off at the church office.

Global Missions Committee trip to Mwitikira, Tanzania | An essential part of St. Paul's support for the village of Mwitikira involves in-person visits to better understand the educational, medical, and agricultural needs of the community. This enables us to deepen our personal and spiritual connections with our brothers and sisters in this global partnership. The village is remote and the living conditions are very basic, limiting the number of overnight visitors the village can reasonably support. A trip is being planned for roughly October 14-23. Travel includes a night in Dar es Salaam, Diocese of Central Tanganika meetings in Dodoma, three nights in Mwitikira and travel back to the U.S. Expenses are supported by the attendees and run about \$4,000/person. If you are interested in learning more please contact Tom Smith (SmithTL804@gmail.com) or Chris West (CEW2373@gmail.com).

Summer Choir | Have you ever enjoyed singing in a choir? Are you interested in being part of the choral leadership of worship during the Summer months? This is a great time to experience this ministry with minimal time commitment. We gather in the choir room at 9:15 AM each Sunday to prepare a simple anthem and review hymns and service music. We hope you will join us! Please contact Christopher Reynolds if you plan to participate on any given Sunday (creynolds@stpaulsrva.org).

St. Paul's Summer Office Hours | Our building will be open Monday - Thursday from 9 AM - 4 PM, and closed on Fridays.

Participants Needed for Survey about Racial Justice

As reported, St. Paul's has an opportunity to work with a team of researchers from William & Mary and University of Wisconsin-Madison to study attitudes about historical and contemporary racial injustices among adults. This will help to inform and shape the Racial Justice and Healing Team's formation programs under development, including Walking with the Enslaved: The Church's Role in Slavery. Everyone over the age of 18 is invited and encouraged to take this short anonymous SURVEY (bit.ly/racialjusticesurvey). It should only take 5-10 minutes of your time with NO experience required. It is important to have as much survey participation as possible. Your input is valuable and helps increase sample size, whether or not you are involved with any St. Paul's Racial Justice and Healing programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Geneva Cole at gvcole@wm.edu or Genevieve Bates at Genevieve.bates@wisc.edu.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Youth Online Summer Series | Traveling for the summer? Join our summer contest series from the lake, the beach, or your living room. And for fun, we've thrown in some fun summer prizes! It is easy to participate: 1) Download the Summer Bucket List from our newsletter or grab a copy from the Youth Ministry bulletin board. 2) Check an item off the list and send a picture or written answer to earn a chance (or two) to win. 2) Read the Bible passage from our Youth Ministry weekly emails and send a reply to the question for three chances to win! Send pictures and responses to Bo Cresswell (bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org). Grades 6-12. Ends August 3rd. *Your pictures and responses may be shared in our newsletters.

Peace Camp Returns | August 12 - 15 (Monday - Thursday) 9 - 11:30 AM. First Mennonite Church, 601 E. Parham Rd. An interfaith camp for rising Kindergartners - 5th graders. At Peace Camp children practice peace with ourselves, peace with the earth, and peace with others. Contact Linda Willis (lwillis@stpaulsrva.org) for more information and to register.

PRAYERS OF THE PARISH

We pray for God's mercy...

...for the Universal Church, the ministry of the Baptized, Presiding Bishop-Elect Sean, Presiding Bishop Michael, Virginia bishops Mark and Gayle, all bishops, priests, and deacons; Diocese of Virginia Conference Centers Shrine Mont and Roslyn, according to the diocesan cycle of prayer; The Church of Ireland, according to the Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

...for the nation, especially elected leaders and public officials who govern our common life; first responders, firefighters, police, emergency room workers, doctors, nurses, and medical technicians; sanitation workers and all who keep public spaces clean and healthy; those suffering in the wake of Hurricane Beryl.

...for all affected by gun violence in our country, especially for the 17,065 people injured by gun violence and the 8,940 people killed by gun violence in this country since January 1, 2024*, including Virginia victims since June 9, 2024: Carole Anne Reese, Gregory Scott Powell, Robert John McGuire, Kevin Toler, James E. Hume II, Robert L. Nixon V, Travis Taurean Martin, Kyree Malik Slan, Zair Granade, Wilson Negron Jr., Dontae R. Muse, Lamontae Aubrey Scott, Kimaun T. Ewell, Bobby Hill, Tasean Farmer, Javid K. Williams, Maurice Stowe, Margie Watkins, Eric Jackson, Wayne Hill, Christopher J. Martin, Jason Allred, Romero Cook, William Jason Roberts, Ashley Marie Roberts, Francisco J. Hernandez Jr., Quashawn D. Perry, Joshua Wilcox, Charles Hewitt, Jesus Alfredo Jeronimo Can, Jeremiah Casarez, Brandon S. Williams, William T. Robinson, Brenda L. Lambert, Rahsaan Nixon, Bradley K. Kortbawi, Ivian Dandridge, and 8 people killed by gun violence whose names we do not know; for the people who perpetuate gun violence; grieving families and traumatized communities; and, for the political will of elected leaders, at federal, state, and local levels, to take actions to prevent and end gun violence for the common good. *Source for all data on gun violence as of July 10, 2024: <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

...for the world, especially the ceasing of violence and warfare in the Holy Land, Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan's Darfur region, and other war-torn regions; the people of Afghanistan; all refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers; the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and the village of Mwitikira, Tanzania; all who shape public policies and decisions affecting the climate and environment.

...for Metropolitan Richmond, especially local governments and governing bodies, including the boards of supervisors, councils, administrators, and government employees of Charles City, Goochland, New Kent, Powhatan, Ashland, Petersburg, and Hopewell; those who are unsheltered and suffering from mental illness; our Emmaus guests.

...for those who are sick in body, mind and spirit and all for whom prayer has been requested, especially Frank Montcastle; Robert Mercado, uncle of Lydia Mercado; Jan Orgain; Hank Hobbs; Connie Scruggs, friend of Celia Luxmoore; Ann and Rhett Bentley, sister-in-law and brother of Kia Bentley; Ron Romaine, David Romaine's brother; Jim Pullman, friend of David Romaine; Mary Ramsey, friend of Celia Luxmoore; Georgia Jonkman, mother of Crystal Jonkman; Susan, friend of Lindy Wright; Jimmy Yeorgan, Ginny Campbell's nephew; Ruth Lokey, Beth O'Leary's mother.

...for eternal peace of the departed, especially Read McGehee; Gerald Green, brother of Crystal Green; all who have died due to warfare, violence, disaster, or disease; those whom we love but see no longer.