



ST. PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Grace Notes

## JULY 28, 2024

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### THIS SUNDAY @ ST. PAUL'S

**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.

**Children's Chapel** | There will be no Children's Chapel today. We will have our Gospel procession and return to our regular pattern next week.

**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.

**Today we Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood** | This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first ordination of women as priests in The Episcopal Church. On July 29, 1974, eleven women were ordained priests at Philadelphia's Church of the Advocate. Those pioneering women, now known as the Philadelphia Eleven, paved the way for a churchwide authorization of women's ordination.

**Education for Ministry Informational Meeting | 11:30 a.m. Library** | Join us to learn more about Education for Ministry, a four-year small group formation program that delves into an education in the Bible, history and theology as well as spiritual practices, giving participants the tools and knowledge to interpret the richness of the church in a complex and confusing world. When completed, participants receive a Certificate of Completion and recognition from the University of The South/ Sewanee School of Theology. A new EFM group will begin meeting weekly in September 2024 and run through June 2025. Meeting times will be decided by the group. Tuition costs up to \$350. Scholarships are available. Jeanne LeFever sjlefever311@

gmail.com and Edie Patterson edithpatterson1@mac.com, both long-time members of St. Paul's will be the co-mentors. To learn more, contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org Director of Formation and Fellowship.

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:whitehurstcookmichelley@gmail.com).

**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: September 1, October 27 and November 17. Your gift supports a vital part of the life of St. Paul's. Contact Carter Johann at [cjohann@stpaulsrva.org](mailto: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](http://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 so faithfully to 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 ([sylviassisters.org](http://sylviassisters.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 \(bit.ly/periodpackingparty\)](http://bit.ly/periodpackingparty) if you can join us. Contact Lisa Guthrie ([lismg1@aol.com](mailto:lismg1@aol.com)) for more information.

#### **Emmaus Item Spotlight | Summer Attire**

With the scorching weather we find we can use more cool, lightweight clothing to distribute to our Emmaus guests. Shorts, t-shirts and blouses are all in high demand. Another frequently requested item are belts. There's no need to buy anything new – please check your own closets or visit your local thrift store. Thank you for your support.

**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](mailto:SmithTL804@gmail.com)) or Chris West ([CEW2373@gmail.com](mailto:CEW2373@gmail.com)).

#### **Participants Needed for Survey about Racial Justice**

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](http://bit.ly/racialjusticesurvey)). It should only take 5-10 minutes of your time with NO experience required. 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](mailto:gvcole@wm.edu) or Genevieve Bates at [Genevieve.bates@wisc.edu](mailto:Genevieve.bates@wisc.edu).



### **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

**Children and Youth Sunday School Kickoff | Sunday, August 25 @ 9 am | Atrium** | Join us for a festive breakfast to celebrate the kickoff of Sunday School. Everyone is welcome!

**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](mailto: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](mailto:lwillis@stpaulsrva.org)) for more information and to register.

## PRAYERS OF THE PARISH

Each week in Grace Notes, we prepare "Prayers of the Parish" for you to include in your daily prayers and devotions. The Prayers of the Parish are like Prayers of the People in that we pray for the universal church, the nation, world, God's creation, local community, the sick and suffering, and the departed. You may submit prayer requests to be included in both the Prayers of the Parish as well as for the Sunday Prayers of the People by emailing Carter Johann (cjohann@stpaulsrva.org)

### **We give thanks to God...**

...as we celebrate the season after Pentecost where the Holy Spirit continues to pour upon the Church as we make God's loving and reconciling presence known to all.

...for the long days, fruits, light, and relaxed rhythms of summer, during this season of growth and fertility.

...for the St. Paul's 2024 Annual Giving Campaign "Celebrating Who We Are and Who We Are Becoming" and the generosity of all are fulfilling their pledges to support our vibrant ministries and mission to proclaim Christ to the heart of the city.

### **We pray for God's mercy...**

...for the Universal Church, the ministry of the Baptized; The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion and all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Lay Leaders; The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, 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; all in need of relief from the dangerous heat.

...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 affecting the climate and environment, that they may consider wisely the well-being of God's creation.

...for Metropolitan Richmond, especially local governments and governing bodies, including boards of supervisors Henrico County, the county administrators, and all county employees; all RPS200 faculty, staff, and students returning to school, especially the Woodville Elementary School community; our Emmaus guests.

...for those who are sick in body, mind and spirit and all for whom prayer has been requested, especially Frank Montcastle; David Baker; Roberto 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; Dr. Boyd Clements, Howard Wells' father-in-law; Georgia Jonkman, mother of Crystal Jonkman; Susan, friend of Lindy Wright; Jimmy Yeargan, Ginny Campbell's nephew; Ruth Lokey, Beth O'Leary's mother.

...for eternal peace of the departed, especially Thomas John Hersee, brother of Bob Hersee; Patricia Taaffe, mother of Leila Taaffe; those who have died due to warfare, violence, disaster, or disease; those whom we love but see no longer.