

In This Month's Voice...

St. Paul Star of The Month
Will return next issue

Don't Miss It!

Share in our Christmas Program

Trustee's Tablet

Details from the president

4644 Snap

A grant-writer winner shares

Recipe of The Month

Easy Blueberry Pie

Members Get Personal About
God's Surprises

Reflections on A Former
Member

Please Remember

Tribes for Christ supports our C.M.E.
Colleges ~ It is not too late to give

Volunteers to deliver Christmas dinners
are a blessing to our sick & Shut-in

Invite Someone this Wednesday!



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Traci Simmons unless otherwise indicated
Proof-reading by Nelson H. Simmons

God's Surprises Are The Best Surprises

Vol. 2, No. 6 November/December

Happy Holidays 2021

A couple of weeks ago, I had dinner with a few friends of mine from high school. When in high school, the four of us were pretty much inseparable—regular sleep-overs, hanging out after school, always on the phone, driving together to movies and parties, etc., As life would have it, jobs, marriages, and even separations, led to us being spread across the map. We would check in with one another periodically over the years, but obviously didn't spend nearly as much time together as before.

I began praying many years ago for our friendships to be restored. These ladies are true friends, and friends with whom I share great love and memories. About a year after my prayers began, the sister of one of them suffered a stroke. This friend reached out to "the gang," and we subsequently developed a texting chain. We joined together in prayer for her sister's health, and those communications developed into more prayers and reuniting. Eventually, we organized a trip to Dallas, TX where my friend Kimberly hosted us for a long weekend of, "doing the town" and staying up late just like in high school. Today, all but one of us are back in the Chicago area, and God has **surprised** us with renewed relationships.

Next week, I will be releasing my first children's book (Nola's Pet-Peeve). Because I am self-publishing, I had run into a few glitches along the way. While at dinner earlier this month, I talked about my book project and the little problem I was having. My friend Kim looked at me in endearing amazement as she pulled out a proof of her own new children's book, and said to me, "I can take care of that for you." To make a very long story short, my friend Kim came into town from Texas; we all got together; I had no idea about her new book; she had no idea about mine; the exact issue with which I needed help, is what she was able to help with; and the one problem that she had, is what I was able to solve for her. Through all of our talking, we had both kept our project secret until we felt confident it would come into fruition. God **surprises** us with His impeccable timing, even in the midst of our secret insecurities. How has God **surprised** you by showing up in ways that only He can?



1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

Often times in life, we encounter something that catches us off guard or I dare say, surprises us. Many times when they come, we wonder why it happened or better yet, why didn't I see it coming? As a Child of God, we are challenged to live in such a way where we must come to expect surprises in this life. However, what separates us from the non-believers is how we process our surprises. God calls us to evaluate those surprises for the betterment of ourselves and entrust them to Him to handle for us. When surprises come

your way, and they will, remember God is still in control and we must trust God to work His plan in us when they come. St. Paul, *SURPRISE GOD IS WITH US!!!*

Blessings & Peace

Rev. Dr. Curlee L. Adams

Senior Pastor

Trustee's Tablet

The Trustee Board is busy as usual. For the past few months we have tried to get the church property prepared for winter. We have been troubleshooting the boiler to ensure the educational building is heated for Cambridge Christian Academy (CCA). With that in mind, we have had to have some emergency repairs. We have had the boiler control panel replaced (Tekmar system), we have had the radiator valve screens cleaned, and the system bled. We had People's gas out to increase the water column pressure. These are new issues that were not of concern in the past due to vacancy of the educational building. Many thanks to Bro. Clarence Highsmith, Bro. Irvin Wilson, Bro. Robert Davenport, and Pastor Adams who spent many hours of their time in getting this system working.



The torrent roof has been repaired, and the front exterior area where it sits has been tuckpointed. This would be the hallway outside of Murchison Hall above the stained glass windows where rain was leaking into the building. Restoration of this wall will need to take place in order to secure and beautify that area.

Immediate future repairs include the pulpit flooring. Dr. Rutherford Simmons has investigated the damage and will be making this minor repair. We are so grateful for his time and skills in this area.

A new issue that I have discovered just this week is, there is no hot water in some of our bathrooms.

Everyday we are learning something new about the structure of the building. St. Paul we have much work to do to maintain our church property. The Trustee Board needs willing, working hands of those who may have skills to do minor repairs. Please contact me or any member of the board if you can assist us in restoration projects. We would greatly appreciate it.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday Jesus !! To God Be The Glory,

Sis. Trina Ridgley and The Trustees

“Laity Empowered by The great Commission, Impacting Every Generation”

National Lay Day 2021, led by President Ralston Simmons and Vice-President Jacqueline Prince was a day of inspiration, generation, and participation within the St. Paul body. The charge, however was to move all of the above outside, not only of the church body, but outside of ourselves as well. The speaker for the day was Sis. Marissa Nash from Carter Temple. Sis Nash brought to light the fact that, while we have been urged to go out and make disciples, we have “become more focused on our own personal relationships with Jesus, rather than sharing the good news with others.” “We have busied ourselves with our various ministries and committees that do little to buildup the Kingdom,” she suggested. My personal favorite from her observations, was to change the way we as church members respond to people we haven’t seen in a while. Instead of asking them where they have been and why they haven’t been at church in so long, how about we pick up the phone to check on them when they are absent? Great message Sis. Nash. Now, let us all take heed!

The October 10th Lay Day was also a day to remember our members who have passed from labor to reward. We pray that our small ceremony of love and reflection is a blessing to those families. This year, we gave thanks for the lives of Bro. Leroy Smith, Sis. Edwina Coleman, Gwendolyn Fitzhugh, and Henrietta Whirl. Thank you Bro. Simmons and Sis. Prince for your leadership. Thank you worship service participants. St. Paul, you were unified in purple and in purpose!



L to R: Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams, Sis. Marissa Nash, Sis. Jacqueline Prince, Bro. Ralston Simmons



Top M: Sis. Katia Adams, New Testament reading



Top R: Cameron Rayford, Prayer



Bottom L: Sis Johnnie Wilson lights a candle for the life of Sis Henrietta Whirl



Bottom R: A table holds symbolic life celebration candles of our deceased members

New Hope C.M.E. In The House!

We missed you Pastor and Mrs. Adams...but you left us in great hands!

Sunday November 14th was a spirit-filled day as our worship service was led by Rev. Kalif Crutcher, pastor of New Hope C.M.E. Church in Evanston, Illinois. As Rev. and Mrs. Adams were away in celebration of their 25th year anniversary, St. Paul was placed in the capable hands of the, “son-in-love” of Pastor Adams. Pastor Crutcher accepted the invitation to bless us with a word—and **bless us** he did! From the book of John, we were assured and reminded that, “God Is More Than Enough.”

Of course Pastor Crutcher did not show up empty handed. He brought back a couple of gifts that he took from us, and another that he acquired along the way. We were elated to once again fellowship with the now Mrs. Brittney Crutcher, Cameron, and their new addition, Layla Marie.

It must also be noted that our youth aided Rev. Crutcher in worship as they managed every other aspect of the morning worship. Maya Doss, Cameron Rayford, Lauren Simmons, and Rutherford Simmons III, read, prayed, sang, and ushered in the spirit in a most remarkable manner.



L: Rev. Kalif Crutcher

R: Pastor & Members of New Hope C.M.E. Church



L to R: Ardella Davis, Nelson Simmons, Lauren Simmons, President Autumn Evins, Francis Evins (Missionary officers & Mattie E. Coleman Circle)

St. Paul Gives...Thanks!

November 21, 2021

Thank you **Missionaries of St. Paul** for once again leading us in yet another way to be a blessing to our community. **\$50 Jewel Foods gift cards** were made available to 50 families this year! We were also delighted to have recipients of the gift cards in worship service on the morning of the giveaway. The Lord added to our body as one of our visitors

came forward to **become part of our church family!**





Providence Leadership Conference 2021

The Providence Leadership Conference was designed by Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Lisa Adams for both conventional and nonconventional leaders because they believe that leadership is not just for those in traditional leadership roles, but for everyone. This year's conference was once again held virtually on Saturday October 23rd.



St. Paul and friends, if we are blessed to have this forum made available to us again next year, Do Not Miss It! Understanding how to better discipline ourselves, how to better relate to our co-workers and congregation, being given a different perspective on how to deal with and tackle certain challenges, and gaining tools to lead with confidence during times of uncertainty, can enhance anyone's life skills portfolio. This is what participants of this year's conference were presented with. Thank you Pastor and First Lady Adams for your vision, and for once again sharing this awesome resource with your church family.

Aren't you glad that God gets all up in your business?

We walk by
by sight, and
walking,
His thing. A
members
to share an



faith and not
while we are
God is doing
few St. Paul
were asked
experience

of being surprised by God. Please enjoy their testimonies of how
God's surprises can be so surprisingly good!

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" ~Ephesians 6:20

My daughter Gabrielle decided she didn't want to go on prom. I asked her, "Are you sure." She said, "Yes mom, I'm sure." The week before prom, she came to me and said, "Mom I want to go to prom because they nominated me for Prom Queen." I was furious. I called my girlfriend to vent, and told her what happened. She said, "Daph, no worries. I have a beautiful dress that she can wear."

Rob took her for the fitting, and it was a perfect fit. In the meantime, I was running low on funds, and my neighbor called and told me to send Gabrielle over. "I have something for her." Gabby came back with \$100. We both had smiles on our faces and thanked God! We went to DSW for shoes and a little clutch purse. While looking, I started talking to a nice lady. She asked Gabby about graduation, and they talked. We found shoes and a purse, and when we saw her again, she gave me a \$20.00 off coupon, I was ecstatic! We finally made it to the cashier and received the total. I heard the lady say, "Did the coupon help?" I said, "Yes it did," and we thanked her again. Then she came running up, and slapped \$100 bill on the counter. She said, "I am paying for all of your stuff." Me looking crazy said, "No ma'am, you don't have to do this." She said, "Oh yes I am." All I could do was cry. Then Gabby started to cry, and the whole line started to cry. So God really surprised me with that! We waited by the door for the nice lady to come out, but she didn't come out. We went back into the store and SHE WAS NOT THERE. We were somewhat puzzled. I knew by then what it was. It was a blessing from God. That was a surprise to me, but I know what God can do. She was our Angel!



Daphne Davenport



**Angels are one of God's
Surprises**

Recalling an incident from years ago when I was in my mid twenties (seems like yesterday), one weekday morning I was riding with my Dad to his job which was located on Chicago's north side. As we were entering the ramp at Congress Parkway, my dad accelerated to 60 mph to match the traffic flow. I was half asleep on the passenger side until I heard my Dad yell out in alarm and panic, "Oh no! JESUS CHRIST NO BRAKES!" I immediately sat straight up and saw that we were free-falling and zooming down the ramp at 60 mph, plus headed into backed up traffic. I was frozen and speechless with fear and panic, but somehow my Dad reacted by pulling the emergency brake, throwing the gears into reverse, and steering and swerving the car up the right side of the grassy embankment along the side of the express lane. Oh my God! We came to a stop while headed up the grassy embankment. We did not hit any other cars. We were not severely injured, but we had bruises and scars from being thrown against the glass and dashboard.

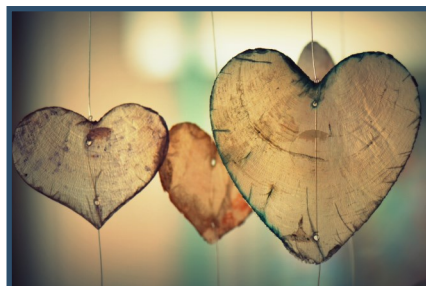
The car's brakes had failed at a moment when we could have been killed and possibly killed others. My Dad was so shook up that much later at home, he broke down just thinking about what could've happened had it not been for God's saving grace. At the time, I was not in the mindset to even know that it was not my Dad's reaction or mine or anyone's, but God's saving grace. Years later I still reflect on this incident and realize that God saved me and Dad. He saved me even though at the time, I was so in the grips emotionally and spiritually of being a fan of the world's offerings. This incident made me realize that no day or moment is promised and that I must be grateful to our God for He holds us in the palm of His hand. It is our Lord Savior that protects, preserves, nurtures us even when we do not ask for it or show gratitude.

Vertis Clemons

Unexpected & unexplained mercies are one of God's surprises!



Imagine how **surprised** I was, and Tellis was when we found out that we were actually the other's "Person". A person ideally suited to another as a close friend or, (as in our case) also a romantic partner, a "Soulmate". It's really been beyond a **surprise**; it's amazing how perfect and precise God can be in answering prayers. He requires our faith, trust, and that we depend on Him. He knows your wants and needs and dreams. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Instead, we had created standards, created our own worldly boundaries, that definitely did not take us on a straight path to one another. Not until we both personally stopped and decided not to lean on our own understanding for a mate, did God answer our prayers. He directed our paths straight across the sanctuary of St. Paul church, where the other half of our "equally yoked" was. Good thing that we receive new mercies every day, and those yesterdays of missteps are all gone. As we desired, God is front and the center of our relationship, and He will be when we marry on April 2, 2022. Best **Surprise** Ever!!!



Yolanda Doss
Finding, "the one"
is one of
God's Surprises!

May the Joy, Peace, And Love of Jesus Christ Be With You This
Holiday Season!



Sunday November 28th

Tribes for Christ Closing Service

Saturday December 4th

Winter Council

Sunday December 12th

Christmas Dinner Carry-Out

Sunday December 19th

Christmas Program

Saturday December 25th

We Celebrate The Birth of Christ



The Steward Board is elated to welcome Sis. Kyla Owens

Her service is much needed and highly valued!

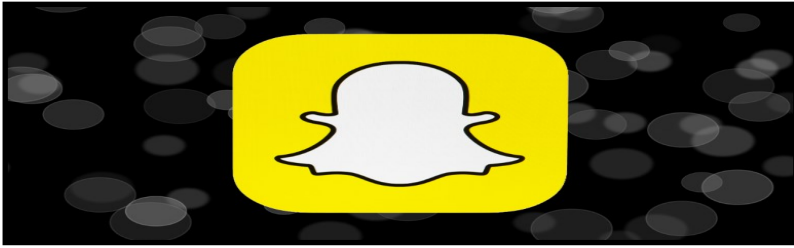


Pastor Adams takes time to bless the Mitchell's puppy in the newly remodeled prayer chapel



Sharing smiles with Trinity on her "last" Sunday





4644 Snap
4644 Snap

How Do You See God Working In This Pandemic?

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9. This verse is the representation of being protected during this pandemic where I see God working. This pandemic has taught me many things, but one thing it has really taught me is that God works in mysterious ways. Throughout all the disappointments and losses, God has kept me protected and has opened my eyes to many things.

When the pandemic first started, we were all terrified of going outside. Everyone was going crazy in the stores, panic buying all the essentials. It was sheer madness, but I knew God had everything under control. There were people that were stressing over school, work, and extracurricular activities, but the pandemic has given everyone a break. It has given me more time to be with family, relax and re-connect with God.

Another way that God is working through the pandemic is that He has kept my family COVID-19 free. I have been able to continue attending school, church, meetings, and family game nights using virtual platforms such as Zoom. Since many colleges went "test optional," it has helped with the admission into even more colleges and universities without the completion of the SAT exam. Remote learning for school has its advantages too as it has helped ease the stress of not being able to physically "see" classmates. I can see how God is working things out for my good.

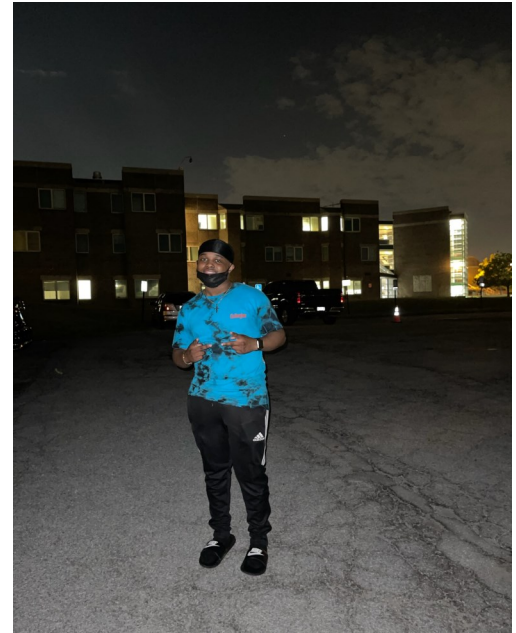
I can definitely see how God is working in this pandemic because He continues to keep me and my family safe and healthy. He is opening doors on my behalf. He is keeping me to tell others of His power.

Jeffrey (aka BJ) Owens is a first-year student at Chicago State University.

He enjoys swimming, playing bass guitar, and video gaming.

BJ received a scholarship, and is currently on track to become an instructor of

Mathematics upon graduation.



Move-in Day At CSU

Greetings My St. Paul Church Family:

What a mighty God we serve. I want to give much gratitude and appreciation to the music department and ALL choirs for the outstanding voices of praise raised during the Sunday worship services.

St Paul is so blessed to have such a rich history. So many people in the city have ties to our great Zion. This week I was informed of the passing of one of our previous members of whom I've never met, but I am friends with some of his family members. I wanted to share this information thru this medium so as to reach those that may have known him, **Mr. Henry Simmons Jr.**

Mary Simmons Collins (his sister) and Henry Jr. were the children of Mattie & Henry Simmons Sr. St. Paul was the Simmons family church where they were actively involved for over 3 generations. Henry Simmons Senior's mother, Mary Ellen Simmons was an original member when services were held in the basement (now Murchison hall).

Henry Sr. Was active member of the Gospel choir, the Men's chorus and the Trustee Board. He also played Joseph in the annual Christmas pageant and participated in the New Year's Eve watch services for many years. Henry Jr's religious education was strongly influenced by Sunday school teacher, Mr. Lewis. He was a founding member and participant in the 1950 basketball team. Henry's Uncle Clifford Simmons, was a long time member too and served on the



L to R: Earnestine Simmons, Carolyn Kirksey, Bobbi Rock

usher board. Henry met and married his wife, Earnestine Kirksey at St. Paul. Earnestine is my friend, Carolyn's sister. Henry served in the Air Force on active duty for 10 years. He completed his Air Force retirement commitment in the Illinois Air National Guard serving as a navigator and Hurricane Hunter. Henry retired as a Lt. Colonel. I thought Henry Simmons Jr. maybe someone you may know and remember. He passed Sunday, November 14th in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Henry is survived by his first wife, Earnestine Kirksey Simmons; Sheila Simmons Conner, daughter; Steve Conner, son-in-law; Stone Conner; grandson; Joyce, second wife; Mary Simmons Collins, sister; Michelle Collins, niece; and many cousins. To God Be The Glory for the Legacy of the Mattie and Henry Simmons Families.



Submitted by Trina Ridgley from The Simmons Families

thankful



December Babies!

Brenda Broadus	December 8th
Zaniya Mitchell	December 10th
Steve Beal	December 14th
Doris Guy	December 16th
Peggy Brown	December 19th
Bertina Lampkin	December 20th
Twanda Carroll	December 24th
Alicia Bowman, Kimyatta Terrell	December 27th
Debra Johnson	December 29th
Aaron Ridgley, Traci Smith	December 30th



Have You noticed the donation box at our church?

The Gaia Movement has partnered with St. Paul to receive used or unwanted clothes and shoes which will be pressed, packed, and shipped to countries in need.

So the next time you can't figure out what to do with the kid's old clothes, or the pants you can no longer fit due to too much exercising, toss them in a bag and bring them to the church for a good cause.

December

What do you see in December that you can't see in any other month? **The letter "D"!**

How do you find Will Smith in the snow?

You look for the fresh prints!



Black History Corner

By Justice Bertina Lampkin



A LIFE OF SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY



Colin Luther Powell, whose leadership in several Republican administrations helped shape American foreign policy, died from Covid-19 complications on October 19, 2021.

Powell was born April 5, 1937, in Harlem, New York. He grew up in the Bronx as the son of immigrants who migrated there from Jamaica. In high school he joined the ROTC, attained the rank of Cadet Colonel, and began his life-long commitment as a distinguished and trailblazing professional soldier.

His career led him into serving two tours of combat duty in Vietnam, where he was wounded twice, including during a helicopter crash in which he rescued two soldiers. After returning home he stayed in the Army, attended the National War College, and was promoted to Brigadier General in 1979.

In 1987 **General Powell** was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as the first Black National Security Adviser, and in 1989 he became the youngest and first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for President George H.W. Bush.

His popularity around the globe soared based upon military actions he led during the 1989 Panama Operation, the 1991 Gulf War, and the U.S. humanitarian intervention in Somalia. In fact, he was so well-respected that the Republican Party urged him to run for the presidency of the United States in 1996. His family did not support the run and he declined.

Powell became something of a national hero, enjoying a 71% favorability rating after the Iraq War. His efforts earned him two prominent awards: a Congressional Gold Medal in March 1991 and a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

He also received a number of other notable awards, including the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. He received his fourth star in 1989, becoming the second African American to rise to the rank of a Four Star General.

In 2001 President Bush swore in **General Powell** as the Secretary of State for the United States. Powell became the highest ranking Black public official to date in the United States, standing fourth in the presidential line of succession. He had been unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

In addition to his military awards, Powell received the President's Citizen Medal, the Secretary of State Distinguished Service Medal, as well as a Second Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded with distinction, from President Bill Clinton.

Black History Corner Continued on Next Page

Recipe of The Month

Easy Blueberry Pie

Submitted by Sis. Johnnie Norvell



Homemade Crust for 8" or 9" pie (or you may buy premade deep-dish crusts)

2 cups flour 1 tsp salt 4—5 tbsp cold water

2/3 cups + 2 tbsp Crisco shortening or lard

Wax paper Rolling Pin Pie Dish

Preheat oven to 375

- 1) Put all ingredients except shortening and water into bowl and mix together
- 2) Mix in shortening and sprinkle in water
- 3) Mix until all flour is moistened (add 1-2 tsp water if needed)
- 4) Separate into two balls
- 5) Sprinkle dough balls and wax paper with flour
- 6) Roll out dough
- 7) Form one crust into dish and trim hanging edges
- 8) Put into oven for 5 min (to keep dough from rising, prick with fork)

The Filling

3 cups fresh blueberries 1 1/2 cups sugar
1 tbsp flour 1/2 tsp cinnamon 1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp Lemon Juice 4 tbsp butter dash of salt

Gently mix all ingredients together in a bowl to fully coat blueberries

Put blueberries into pie crust

Use finger tips to seal top crust onto bottom crust

Slit top crust prior to baking (be creative to decorate if desired)

Bake at 425 for 45 min (for extra richness, rub top crust with butter after 35 min)

Top with ice cream & enjoy!



Black History Corner Continued from Page 13

Later in life, [General Powell](#) would grow disillusioned with the Republican Party's ultra-right wing stances and he used his considerable influence to help elect Democrats to the White House, most notably Barack Obama, the first Black President whom Powell endorsed during the 2008 campaign. He went on to endorse Joe Biden for President in 2020 while blasting Trump's presidency.

[General Powell](#) is survived by his wife of 59 years, Alma Vivian Powell and his three children.

