



**In This Month's Voice...**

St. Paul Star of The Month

A kind, humble spirit

**Don't Miss It!**

**Steward's Day will rock!**

Trustee's Tablet

Various church updates

**4644 Snap**

**A fresh perspective on how to spend money**

Recipe of The Month

Will return next month

**Black History Corner**

**He made a difference until the last hour Pt II**

Members' Talk Love & More

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## The 2nd Greatest Love Story Ever Written

During the month of February, many people take deliberate time out to express their love for special persons in their lives, and to pay tribute to the commemoration that has been titled, "Black History Month." I had left this page blank as I mulled over which theme to highlight— Love or black history?

Valentine's Day cards, love songs, as well as our own imaginations and intellect seek to appropriately define what love is. However, in 1 Corinthians 13, love's true meaning is made plain. God inspires the Apostle Paul to tell us exactly what love is and exactly what love is not. As I examined Paul's breakdown of love, taking in both the depth and simplicity of its meaning, I also began to see some of the images that continue to form our great American story.

I considered a mother letting go of her daughter's tiny hand as she crossed **Bridges** of racism into an all white elementary school with an angry bigoted mob screaming hatred in her direction; I considered a former slave who became free and changed her name to represent the **Truth** about slavery that she would travel the land on foot to speak; I considered a group of **Tuskegee**-trained pilots who organized and flew with pride and precision during WWII, never returning to a hero's welcome, but rather to segregation and discrimination; I considered the Edmund Pettus Bridge in **Selma**, Alabama, the **Harlem** Renaissance, and the **Hidden Figures** within NASA. And I came to realize there was no need to choose between love or black history. The blood that was shed, the sacrifices that were made, the toil that was endured by black men, women, and children while our story was being formed, could not have been sustained without love.

Later in this newsletter, we will hear from a few St. Paul members as they shine light on a few attributes of love as written by the Apostle Paul. The attribute I chose to expand on is, "**Love is not self-seeking.**" This means love has no concern for advancing its own welfare or its own interests before those of others. Love is not selfish.

During this month of February, I invite all of us to take time to thank God for the unselfishness of those who came before us, and for those who continue to put their own comforts aside for the advancement of our race. Let's celebrate black Americans whose deeds have embodied a love that reached far beyond what they themselves could gain. We reap the benefits of their unselfish love each and every day.

Black history just might be the 2nd greatest love story ever written.

*"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."* —Shirley Chisholm



## Micah 6:6 - 8

"With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly<sup>[a]</sup> with your God."

As we enter Black History Month, the need for Justice is ever more prevalent in our community. The Police shootings, Capital Unrest, White Supremacy and violence in our neighborhoods speaks to the urgency of us as Black Christians to make our voices heard and actions felt across this nation. If this past year has taught us anything, it should have revealed to us the importance of coming together as a people and living out what God has called for us as a community of believers. I pray as you reflect on our history and heritage as a people that you make a commitment to be the change we hope for in the world today. Let us take the words of Micah and live them every day.

Blessings & Peace

Rev. Dr. Curlee L. Adams

Senior Pastor

Saint Paul CME Church

### Trustee's Tablet

First an update from the St. Paul Re-entry Committee. The Re-entry committee, lead by President Clarence Highsmith and Vice-President Trina Ridgley, oversees various details and procedures regarding safely getting people back into the church building. Some of these details include, how people will be screened; attendance and seating monitoring for the purpose of contact tracing; how to manage those who have been vaccinated vs those who have not; and how the church will continue to be sanitized. Pastor Adams, also part of this committee reminds us that the position of the C.M.E. Church as a whole is that, "Mass gatherings are not advised or supported." "Until Covid leaves our world, this will probably be our world for a while," Pastor Adams added. In addition to the professional sanitizing completed within St. Paul, the church has also purchased its own sanitizing fogger for ongoing use. The church also has ownership of ample digital thermometers.



Important discussion continues about replacing the southern-most doors in the front of the church. "Because that entry will be the entry used for the newly established 501C3, those doors will be the business entry as well as the handicapped accessible entry," says Vice-President Trina Ridgley. "Therefore, the door frames, size, etc. must be in compliance with ADA regulations. Pictured above, this doorway is already equipped with a ramp. Stay up to date by checking out next month's *Tablet*.

## History Honored And Taught at St. Paul

Rossie Thompson Hollis, is buried at Hillcrest Memory Gardens in Spencer, Oklahoma, but her spirit lives on through the Missionary Society of the C.M.E. Church. Each year, children of St. Paul, ages five to eleven, introduce to some and present to others, the history of the second President of the Women's Missionary Council, Rossie T. Hollis. Typically the children participate in morning service and/or host an afternoon activity. This year, we were blessed by 4th grader Trinity Long who delivered an in-depth morning prayer. Past President, Dr. Elnora Hamb shared with the congregation that Missionary Hollis' love for children is why the children's department was named after her. Other members of St. Paul's Rossie T. Hollis Circle include Alicia Bowman, Amya Bowman, and London Coleman. We appreciate our Missionary President, Sis. Frances Evins and circle leader, Francettia Worlds for keeping her legacy alive and keeping our children involved.



The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (C.M.E.) was founded from the Methodist Episcopal South Church in Jackson, Tennessee December 16, 1870, one hundred fifty years ago. Liberty Station, a ward of the ME South Church since 1848, became known as the founding church. As a result, Mother Liberty CME Church is affectionately known as the "Mother" of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Our denomination now has congregations in the majority of the United States, Jamaica, Haiti, and Africa. During these 150 years, the CME Church has been committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, witnessing to the love of God and being an influence and contributor to communities large and small. [This text is shared directly from the official website of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church]

St. Paul was well-informed and delighted by three lessons in history as presented by Dr. Rutherford Simmons Jr. during the months of December and January. Dr. Simmons used videos, reenactments, pictures, and *real talk* to tell the fascinating and boundless story of how this great denomination was formed and how it evolved. If you missed it, or would like to revisit any of the sessions, you're able to do so on You Tube! Simply search, "St. Paul C.M.E. Chicago" (December 20th, 27th, 2020, and January 17, 2021). Thank you Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams and Dr. Simmons for making room to honor this milestone and to enlighten God's people.



**William H. Miles, 1st  
Bishop of the C.M.E. Church**



**Texas College in Tyler, TX is one of four C.M.E.  
Colleges**



**The Founding church in Jackson, TN**

In honor and recognition of Black Americans throughout history, please enjoy these quotes from some of America's greatest and most gifted.



**"If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it." —Toni Morrison**



**"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations." —Dr. Mae Jemison**

**"If you don't have confidence, you'll always find a way not to win."**

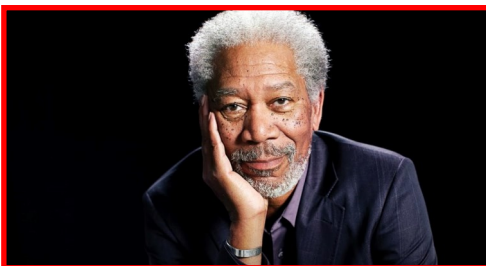
—Carl Lewis



**"Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated." —Coretta Scott King**



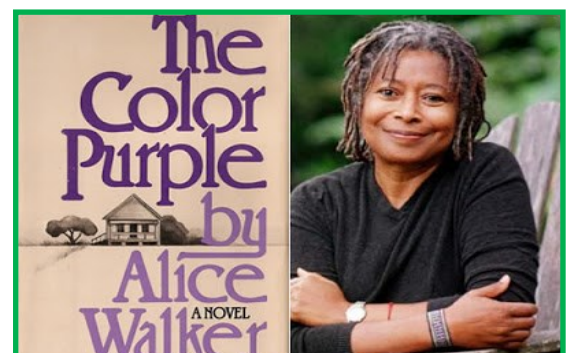
**"You've got to learn to leave the table when love's no longer being served." —Nina Simone**



**"I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history." —Morgan Freeman**

**"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."**

—Alice Walker



## More Inspiration



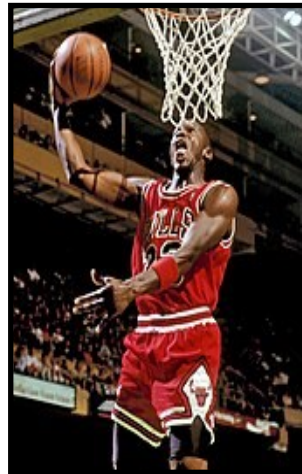
**"There is no vaccine for racism." —Kamala Harris**

**"Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part." —John Lewis**



**"I am lucky that whatever fear I have inside me, my desire to win is always stronger."**

**—Serena Williams**



**"I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying." —Michael Jordan**

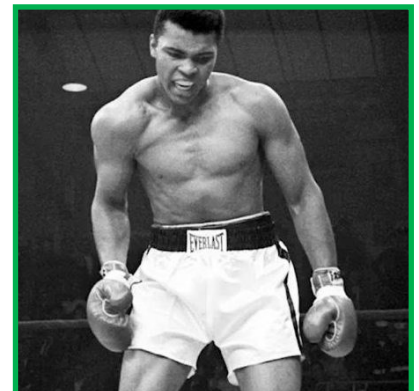


**"Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing." —Muhammad Ali**



**"I had no idea that history was being made. I was just tired of giving up."**

**—Rosa Parks**



## Don't Miss It!

**Bible Study (virtual)**

**Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.**

**Book of Proverbs**

**Sunday School**

**Youth, Young Adult, Adult Classes**

**9 a.m.**

**Young Adult Bible Study/Leady by Sis**

**Autumn Evins**

**Every other Friday, 6:30—7 p.m.**

**Youth & YA Revival**

**February 1st & 2nd, 6 p.m.**

**Chicago Distrrict Youth & YA**

**Communion Service**

**Saturday Feb. 6th, 5 p.m.**

**Chicago District Mid-year Training**

**Saturday February 13th, 9 a.m.**

**St. Paul Movie Night(s)**

**Saturday Feb. 20th & 27th, 6 p.m.**

**“Left Behind” & “Aretha Franklin’s  
Amazing Grace”**

**Black History Sunday & Program**

**Sunday Feb 28th, 9 a.m.**

**Steward Board Annual Day**

**Sunday March 21st**

**Please visit [www.stpaulcme-chi.com](http://www.stpaulcme-chi.com)  
for details and more information**

## Happy Valentine's Day!

**Do you know what love really is?**

**1 Corinthians makes it quite clear! The pages following this, feature a few St. Paul members offering insight into a few of love's characteristics as spelled out in God's word.**

### 1 Corinthians

**13** If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.



**“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”**

My interpretation of this scripture is that as humans we may become happy when bad things happen to some people, or selfishly hold grudges against others for their wrong doings to us or people we love. It is important that we make a conscious effort not to do such actions. If we say we love God the way we do, then the love we have for others should always show in the way we **treat and react to others**. We have to show our ability to love others **regardless** of what they may have done or said to us. True love forgives. We must still show love because God loves us.

We must forgive because God forgives. **--Kyla Owens**



**“Love Endures All Things.”**

When I knew I was going to become a father, I asked quite a few “good” fathers what it was like and what I could expect. After the jokes about not sleeping, and getting a weird looking tie as an after-thought on Father’s Day, they all told me basically one concept. “You love your family and do what it takes in every situation to make them happy and whole because in the end, you’re going to be the one who they’re going to look to for that.” I have found this to be infinitely true in the last 13 years. It doesn’t matter really what one goes through - overwork, tiredness, lack of appreciation, outside pressures of society, job issues, deaths in family, etc., a father’s love for his family must **endure** all that if he wants his family to succeed. That being said, I’ve also come to the conclusion that those doing it as a single parent have the hardest job imaginable, and the only reason to put up with some of the pressures and hardships of parenting, is love. But thanks be to God, parents also **endure** joy, pride, success and a return of that love from their children. So yes, love **endures** all things, and I can’t wait to see the future blessings I’ll **endure** with my kids.

**—Dr. Rutherford Simmons, Jr.**



**“Love is Patient.”**

I would like to start by saying, God is love, and through God’s love comes **patience**. **Patience** means not making hasty decisions before thinking through them. **Patience** is being tolerable with others although we don’t fully agree with them. **Patience** is being willing to listen, slow to speak, and slow to answer. **Patience** is to hear both sides of a dispute before making any judgement. I end by saying, if God were not **patient** with us when we were disobedient, where would we be? **--Henry Norvell**



**“Love Keeps No Record of Wrongs.”**

The love referred to in 1 Corinthians 13 is agape love. Agape love is not based on emotions. It is a love that sees past the human and into the spiritual. As children we tend to make mistakes, possibly causing us to get in trouble, multiple times. Our parents don't/ **didn't stop** loving us, and they **didn't count** how many times we messed up. They **continued on loving** us in spite of our human failings... that's agape love. Agape love is modeled by Jesus Christ. He unselfishly gave of himself by putting the welfare of US above his own. He hung, bled and died for our sins. Sins thought, said, done, present and future.

**--Brenda Dockery**



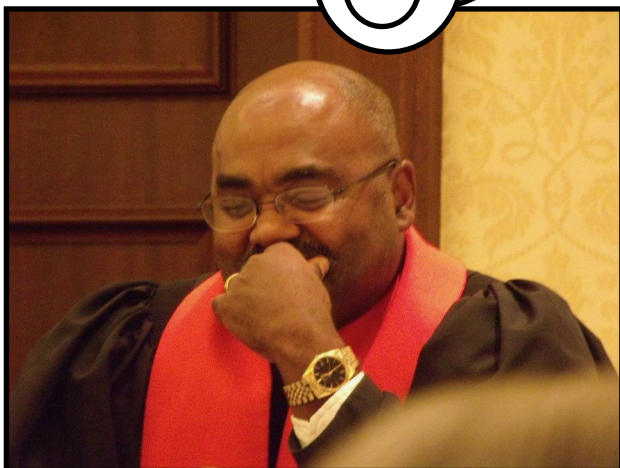


## Love Never Fails

I recounted and recalled many stories of my childhood, life experiences and relationships with those I Love. However, God placed a situation before me that was more recent and I believe speaks to the power of Love. Today, I celebrate my youngest son, Malachi. Many of you know that Malachi didn't have quite the College undergrad experience we had hoped for him. Needless to say, as his father, I struggled with how to best deal with him in this area.

After speaking with First Lady, we chose to still support him, but provide a Love that held him accountable, but also, demonstrated our belief and confidence in him. Malachi, would embrace that approach we took and would ultimately complete his Associate's Degree from Oakton Junior College and receive a scholarship from two universities. Come this Fall, Malachi will be attending Tiffin University in Ohio. As a father I have learned that Love not only covers a multitude of Sins, but also it can **change the course** of someone's life. **Love Never Fails!!**

--Pastor Curlee Adams



## St. Paul Star of The Month

One of the February Star's favorite authors is Maya Angelou. Let's show some love for this month's star, Victoria Wallace. Victoria joined St. Paul in the late 60s and has been coming off-and-on ever since. Many of us remember her making her way up the steps and down the aisle, determined and focused on getting her instrument



into place within the music pit. I watched as others, along with myself would often offer to help. Her response was almost always the same, "No, I got it, thank you." Victoria says that she had a desire to play with the musicians at church. "I would listen to jazz or any music that has a certain beat, and pay attention to Tellis and the choir members, and it just touched my soul and moved me," she said. Although she never had any formal training, I personally recall what a fine addition Victoria was to the music ministry.

*Favorite Scripture: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake... Psalm 23*

When able to be present, Victoria may be found joyfully serving on the Usher Board. While this is her formal position, Victoria has always been willing to give a helping hand when asked. Whether help is needed to prepare for an event or pick up something to be brought to the church, her willing and humble spirit is present. After Victoria had been interviewed for this article, she called me back to remind me that there are many others who may be more befitting—especially for Black History Month. I assured her that I was content with my decision!

Born in Chicago, IL, this April baby has three remaining brothers (one deceased), no children, and lots of nieces and nephews. Let's appreciate the February Star, Victoria Wallace!

### Hobbies

Reading, doing collages and artwork, collecting poetry, keeping up with current events  
and civil rights leaders

### Favorite Foods

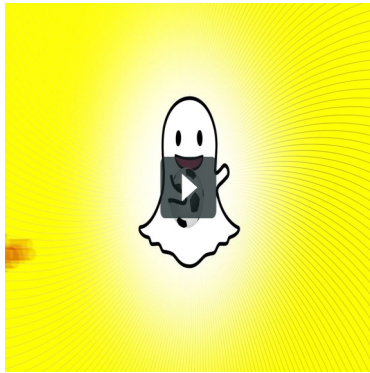
Soul food and sea food

### Favorite St. Paul Memory

The Annual Tea when they set up different tables



# 4644 Snap



From  
The  
Desk  
of  
Trinity Long



Trinity is a fourth-grader  
at Robert A. Black Elementary  
School in Chicago, IL

## What Would I Do If I Had A Million Dollars?

If I had a million dollars I would give each a thousand dollars to my family members. I would do that because I love them! I would use the money to donate food and water to the homeless because I feel sad for them and I want to help. I would also help people to stop smoking. Smoking messes up the air and it can damage your lungs.

I want to stop littering because it ruins the beautiful nature God made. Also, I would also stop violence. Violence is bad and it can hurt people. Stopping violence will make the world a better place. Stopping violence can remove the bad people from the world. This money can help so many people. Have a giving heart! People, please be more caring, loving and giving. It would mean so much to me and I just want people to be nicer to each other.



## Black History Corner

### **JOHN ROBERT LEWIS 1977-2020 A CONTINUOUS LIFE OF SERVICE**

*By Justice Bertina Lampkin*



Last month's column ended with John Lewis' accomplishments up to 1977. In 1977 he accepted a position with the Carter (President Jimmy Carter) Administration as Associate Director of ACTION. He was responsible for running the VISTA program, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Foster Grandparent Program.

In 1981 John Lewis ran for a seat on the Atlanta City Council. He won with 69% of the vote. He served on the Council until 1986.

In 1986 Lewis, in a run-off election between himself and Julian Bond, defeated Bond 52% to 48%. In the November General Election, Lewis defeated Porta Scott and became a member of the United States House of Representatives where he was reelected 16 times. He ran unopposed in 1996, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2014 and 2018.

Lewis was one of the most liberal Congressmen to have represented a District in the Deep South. He was called a hard-core liberal by some papers. The Washington Post described him as "a fiercely partisan Democrat but...also fiercely independent." The Atlanta Journal-Constitution stated Lewis was the "only former major civil rights leader who extended his fight for human rights and racial reconciliation to the halls of Congress." Many U.S. Senators and congressional aids called him the "conscious of Congress."

Lewis spoke out in support of gay rights and national health insurance. He opposed the Gulf War in 1991 as well as many other acts of military intervention in foreign countries. He fiercely opposed the Iraq War and suggested impeaching President George W. Bush for "deliberately, systematically violating the law."

Lewis made an annual pilgrimage to Alabama to retrace the route he marched in 1965 from Selma to Montgomery – a route Lewis worked to make part of the Historic National Trails Program.

Lewis strongly disagreed with the movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel and co-sponsored a resolution condemning the Pro-Palestinian BDS.

In 2001 Lewis boycotted George W. Bush inauguration because he did not believe Bush was the true elected President.

In 2003 Lewis spoke at an anti-war protest before the start of the Iraq War to a crowd of 30,000 people. He was arrested in 2006 and 2009 for protesting against the genocide in Darfur. He was also arrested during a sit-in near the west side of the U.S. Capital Building advocating for immigration reform.

In 2008 after first endorsing Hillary Clinton for President, he formally changed his support and endorsed Barack Obama.

When Barack Obama clinched the Democratic nomination for President, Lewis stated "if someone had told me this would be happening now, I would have told them they were crazy, out of their mind, they didn't know what they were talking about...I just wish the others were around to see this day...To the people who were beaten, put in jail, were asked questions they could never answer to register to vote, it's amazing."

John Lewis continued...

On an African-American being elected President, Lewis stated “if you ask me whether the election...is the fulfillment of Dr. King’s dream, I say, ‘no it’s just a down payment.’ There’s still too many people 50 years later, there’s still too many people that are being left out and left behind.”

President Obama, upon being elected signed a commemorative photograph of the event. It read, “Because of you, John. Barack Obama.”

In 2016 Lewis led a group of House Representatives in a sit-in in demanding House Speaker Paul Ryan allow a vote on gun-safety legislation.

In 1988, the year Lewis was sworn into Congress, he introduced a Bill to create a National African- American Museum in Washington. It failed, but he continued to introduce the Bill every year for 15 years. In 2003 he finally won bi-partisan support and President Bush signed the Bill to establish the Museum. The National Museum of African-American History and Culture opened September 25, 2016.

In 2016 Lewis compared Donald Trump to former Governor George Wallace. (Please read his remarks on Wikipedia.org)

In 2017 Lewis stated he did not see President-Elect Trump as a legitimate President (Please see his remarks on Wikipedia.org)

Lewis did not attend Trump’s inauguration.

In 2020 Lewis endorsed Joe Biden for President. Lewis recommended that Biden pick a woman of color as his running mate.

On July 17, 2020, Lewis died at the age of 80 after a six month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Public ceremonies honoring his life began in his hometown of Troy, Alabama at Troy University, which had denied him admission in 1957 due to racial segregation.

Lewis lied in state in the United States Capitol Rotunda on July 27-28, 2020. He is the first African-American to be so honored in the Rotunda. Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama spoke at his funeral. President Jimmy Carter sent a statement to be read at the service. Donald Trump did not attend.

Please read his inspiring biography.

