



An Unconventional Message of Love

While this rather non-traditional beginning of year editorial may not find purpose with everyone, it is something I felt obligated to share with people I care about.

One of my favorite things to watch on “television,” is documentaries. I had swiped past this one a couple of times on Netflix because its title and description turned me off. I was turned off not only because I suspected it would be a *downer* to my mood, but I also knew it would cause me to face an unfavorable truth about myself and raise my level of responsibility in a particular area.

I am speaking of a documentary titled, “**From One Second to the Next.**” It chronicles the devastating consequences of texting and driving. Four families are featured, both being either victims or offenders of cell-phone-distracted driving.

“I’m told that the text was, I’m on my way.” Did she make it? Did she get to where she was going on time? That would be my question for her.” That is a quote from one of the mothers of a son, now wheel-chair bound and requiring 24-hour care as a result of being hit by a young woman who was texting while driving.

Texting and driving, face-timing and driving, reading and driving—whichever the case may be, please don’t do it. Pull over, wait, talk hands-free, just do not use your hands and eyes on your telephone when they should be on your steering wheel and the road. Everyone who does it believes there is something special about their ability to manage it, but it only takes one time, one second, to change forever. You are not special. Don’t text and drive.

Our children pay attention to everything we do. If we think that we can do one thing behind the wheel, and direct them to do something different when their time to drive comes, we are foolish.

We hear stories all the time about people whose lives were lost as a result of avoidable negligence or accidents, and our hearts break. But how much more heartbreaking would it be to live with the weight of knowing that you yourself were the cause of a lost life? Don’t text and drive.

Let us take responsibility for our own actions in 2021. I watched this documentary because deep down, I really did want to make a change in that area. If you have teenagers, sit down and watch it with them. Here is a link to the video on YouTube <https://youtu.be/daMyVGntBSk>

“Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—” Proverbs 1:5

Be Safe & Have A Much Happier New Year!



Traci Simmons

In This Month’s Voice...

St. Paul Star of The Month

A real mover & shaker

Don’t Miss It!

Join us for movie night

Trustee’s Tablet

The President’s updates

4644 Snap

A young person’s story of faith

Recipe of The Month

A simple way to spice up a regular dish

Black History Corner

He made a difference until the last hour

St. Paul Shares & More

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Proof-Reading by Nelson H. Simmons

ISAIAH 9:6



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

I don't know about you, but last year seemed to move rather slowly. I found myself wishing that 2020 would end yesterday. What we have experienced individually and collectively has just about worn me out. However, I still hold onto the blessed hope that so many others held onto when Isaiah prophesied the arrival of God's Son and what he will bring with him. As we come out of Advent 2020 and enter 2021, I encourage you to never allow the hope and belief you have in God to dwindle or be diminished by what you are seeing or experiencing. God is still in the birthing business and I am looking forward to God birthing new things in our lives. **May God bless you in this holiday season St. Paul, and Happy New year to all.**

Blessings & Peace

Rev. Dr. Curlee L. Adams

Senior Pastor

Saint Paul CME Church

Trustee's Tablet

Trustee Board President Clarence Highsmith again cites, “security” as being a primary concern of the church. “It's been a big deal with people hanging around the church in the cul-de-sac and parking lot. They can be where police aren't always able to easily see them.” Highsmith stated. Because of this, the plan is to integrate building security with technology in terms of the camera system. Highsmith affirms, “We need to have eyes on the property even though we're not around.”

Additionally, the church stands in need of a few additional exterior doors to replace old ones that are no longer functioning properly. Talk has also begun about moving forward on a plan to acquire new building signage on 47th Street. You'll hear more in the near future.

Praize Productions Dance Co. is on temporary hiatus from holding classes in the building due to current COVID-19 standards and restrictions. Classes are still being held virtually as they look forward to returning to our educational building when restrictions are lifted.

Stay tuned for more building news and updates in next month's *Tablet*.



Giving Hearts Find Ways to Give



From 1977 under the presidency of then Missionary President Elnora P. Hamb, to 2020 with President Francis Evins continuing the tradition, St. Paul's Missionaries still found a safe and practical way to share with the community. On Sunday November 15, 2020, 30 families were blessed with \$50 gift cards to Food For Less grocery store. In addition, partnerships with Luster Products Inc. and the Hope Center Foundation of Chicago enabled the Missionaries to give out another 20 turkeys and Thanksgiving baskets.

Sis. Francettia Worlds has coordinated this event for the past six years. When asked how she feels about her work with this particular endeavor, she responded, "Something has to be done outside of these church walls. I felt blessed that we could bless some people in the community. If our arms don't reach beyond the church, why are we even there?" Excellently stated Francettia. She also expressed thanks for all of the members of the Missionary Society and those who donated, noting that it could not have been possible without them. Our church should take



Sis. Francettia & Sis. Frances masked and ready to hand off gifts to families in need

**DO NOT PASS BY a man
IN NEED. FOR YOU MAY
BE THE hand of God
TO HIM.**

-Proverbs 3:27

great pride in the effort and dedication of the St. Paul's Missionary society to rise above the limitations of these times and give to those less fortunate.

Serving Hearts Find Ways To Serve

"Where there is a will there is a way." This is what our Christmas dinner chairperson proved true on December 13, 2020 as her will for the church to host its 25th annual Church Family Christmas Dinner made a way for its success. And as Sis. Johnnie Norvell asserts every year, she could not possibly do it alone. Extra special thanks is given to co-chair Carol Mitchell, and to Sis. Gwendolyn Ross and Peggy Brown for their tireless labor and cooperation. In total, 167 pre-ordered dinners were served to the St. Paul family, including deliveries to our shut-in members. Smiles, air-hugs, and elbow-bumps filled the atmosphere as people drove up to have their meals delivered curbside by Cameron Rayford, Nelson Simmons, and Rutherford Simmons. Thank you God for young legs and willing spirits!

Why attempt something like this in midst of a pandemic? "I thought it would be a means of letting people at St. Paul know that we are alive; to let our sick and shut-in know that we had not forgotten them, and just to keep the dinner alive." Sis. Norvell easily responded. Turkey, dressing, candied sweet potatoes, meatballs, ham,



green beans, macaroni & cheese, croissants, bottled water, and baked goods were all present. The spirit of church family was present. To the committee members: You are the best! You worked, you sacrificed and served with smiles and love.

For that we say,

Thank you ...



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.

Rossise T. Hollis Day

Sunday January 3rd

Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Holiday

Monday January 18th

St. Paul Movie Night

Saturday January 23rd, 6 p.m.

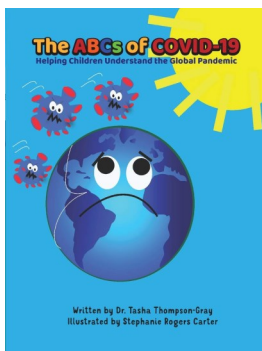
Connectional Youth & Young Adult Week

Jan 31st—Feb 6th

Chicago District Mid-year Training

Saturday February 13th 9 a.m.

Congratulations Min. Stephanie Rogers-Carter on your book illustration project!



“The ABCs of COVID-19”

Educate yourself and a child in your life! To order, contact:

stephanie.rogers.carter@gmail.com

To God be the glory for this accomplishment!



Keep It in Mind!

Tribes for Christ

The ceremony is over, but the giving continues!

Elizabeth Johnson Encouragement Grant

Are You Working on Yours?

YAS, Inc.

(Youth, Young Adults & Seniors)

The 501 (c)(3) is official!

It will operate out of the St. Paul building, but is separate from the church mission. It will be a great resource for our church and community.

Congratulations and Appreciation to our new Church Conference Secretary,

Sis. Jasmine Owens!

Young Adult Sunday School Is Here!

Brother Raymond Belcher will begin leading classes on January 3rd.

2021

St. Paul Star of The Month



Say hello to the January Star, Veronica McKissack! By now most of St. Paul has become acquainted either with her huge smile or sizably matching personality. When Veronica arrived on the scene at St. Paul, she assembled herself in Mr. Clemons' Sunday School class with an open Bible and receptive mind. Once she realized that class discussion and sharing one's thoughts was in order, she made herself at home and eagerly joined the party.

Favorite Scripture: *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:13*

Veronica says that she had come past St. Paul many days and never paid any attention to it. But then she told herself that she needed to come back to church, so she called to see what time the service started. Veronica had been a member of Carter Temple for years and had no idea that she would enter St. Paul to see a familiar face standing in the pulpit. "I love the welcome arms of friendship at St. Paul!" Veronica said. "It makes me so happy, and I just light up because the people there don't mind asking for help." And *help*, she does.

Veronica officially puts her bright smile and gleeful vibes to work while serving on the Usher Board, but she has proven herself unafraid of more physical labor as well. When our church was in need of curtains for our dining room windows, it was her hands that toiled the entire task! Just in time for



the St. Paul Gala, she put her gift of sewing to work and blessed the church with this much needed asset.

This October baby, now widowed from the love of her life of forty-one years, is a mother to one daughter and two sons, grandmother of fifteen, and great-grandmother of seven.

Born in Chicago, IL, she is also one of nine children.

Give a hand-clap of love for the January Star, Veronica McKissack!

New curtains sewn by Sis. Veronica

**McKissack make their debut at St. Paul's
2019 Gala**

Favorite St. Paul Memory: when she stepped down the aisle, giving herself to God

Favorite Things To Do: swim, exercise, bowl, watch football

Fun Fact: Veronica began sewing her own clothes to wear to school at the age of 14, and also made her own prom dress.





4644 Snap

Faith Story

From the desk of Rutherford Simmons III (who's favorite car is a Corvette) is an assignment from last school year. Each student had to write a story of his or her faith and talk about a struggle or question they have encountered along their journey. Rutherford asked if he could share his writing in 4644 Snap.



The Gospel has impacted my life in a major way. I've wrestled with some verses in my life, and I became a stronger Christian through them. I am still wrestling with a verse that makes me think about experiences that have changed my life. This year has been outright terrible, and the church body has had some great souls taken from it. We have had 5 people who've gone up to the Lord. Those people played a huge role in helping the church in many different ways.

One quote that I always think about is, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men to stand by and do nothing." I've never really been bullied, and when I have, it wasn't anything that I couldn't handle. But I've seen others being bullied and teased and didn't like what I was seeing. I was told by people, "Stay away," or "It's not your business," so I left it alone. Then one day I heard that quote and realized that God wants me to help. Even if its as simple as telling an authority figure I should still strive to help those in need.

The Bible verse that still confuses me is Romans 8:28. It says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." This verse still makes me wonder. Earlier I wrote about how my church lost a lot of people this year. I looked to God and he gave me comfort, but I still thought about this verse. Why would God just let those die since he is omnipotent and can do all things. Why would this work for the good of all Christians. I thought about this verse and it still makes me confused.

There are some questions about God that no one has the answers to. There are some suggestions, but God has the real answers. I said that great souls were taken from our church and went to heaven, and I said God brought me comfort. God gives us the gift of his great word. God doesn't just give us his word for us not to benefit from it. God gave us his word so it can bring us comfort in the time of sorrow, so it can bring us faith when we doubt, so it can love us when we feel forgotten, so it can be there when no one else is. God has a plan for each and every one of us. God loves us and will never leave or forsake us. His word has helped me and so many other people, and I'm sure it can help you too.

Black History Corner
by Justice Bertina Lampkin



JOHN ROBERT LEWIS: 1940—2020

“GOOD TROUBLE, NECESSARY TROUBLE”

John Robert Lewis was born in 1940 in rural Alabama, the son of sharecropper parents, and worked hard labor to assist them. He suffered all the indignities of segregation but he was particularly disappointed when the Supreme Court ruling in 1954, **Brown v. The Board of Education**, did not affect his school life. He still remained in segregated, substandard schools. Inspired by hearing Dr. Martin L. King’s sermons and the news about the 1955-56 **Montgomery bus boycott**, Mr. Lewis was inspired to act for the changes he wanted to see.

In 1957, at the age of 17, he attended seminary school in Tennessee where he learned about nonviolent protests, and he helped organize sit-ins at segregated lunch counters. He was arrested many times, but he was committed to the civil rights movement and went on to participate in the **FREEDOM RIDES OF 1961**. Freedom Riders challenged the segregated facilities at interstate bus terminals in the south, which the Supreme Court had stated were illegal, but which continued in southern states. He was arrested and beaten many times for sitting in “white only sections.”

At age 22, he became the chairman of the **STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC)**. He was viewed at the age of 22 as one of the “Big Six” leaders of the civil rights movement and he helped organize and was the youngest speaker at the **March on Washington** before a crowd of 250,000 people. After the March on Washington in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law. This, however, did not stop white segregationists from preventing African Americans from voting. To bring attention to this struggle, Lewis and **Hosea Williams** lead a march from **Selma to Montgomery**, Alabama on March 7, 1965. After crossing the **Edmund Pettus Bridge**, state troopers attacked the marchers, severely beating many of them, including Lewis who suffered a fractured skull. These violent attacks were recorded by news media and seen throughout the country. This day was labeled “**Bloody Sunday**” and these powerful images sped up the passage of the 1965 **Voting Rights Act**.

John Lewis left SNCC in 1966. Though he was later devastated by the assassinations of Dr. King and Robert Kennedy in 1968, he continued to work to increase minority voting. In 1970 he became Director of the Voter Education Project. During his time as Director, his organization helped to register **millions** of minority voters. Mr. Lewis ran for his first public office in 1981, winning a seat on the Atlanta City Council.

***Please, young people, read about the bolded events in this article. They will truly inspire you.



Lewis became an activist as a teenager! His extraordinary career will be continued in next month’s Black History Corner.



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

The annual Breakfast with Santa event wasn't able to happen this year, but St. Paul was still blessed to be able to put smiles on many young faces in the community. A few years ago, 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell identified Beethoven Elementary School as a good match for the church to partner with in terms of giving assistance to families in need. Since that time, St. Paul members have opened their hearts in various ways to provide practical support to that student body.

On December 11, 2020, the church delivered more than 35 winter coats, hats, gloves, and socks for children at the school.

STLS Advocate for Beethoven School, Kelly Smith met with Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams and me to un-

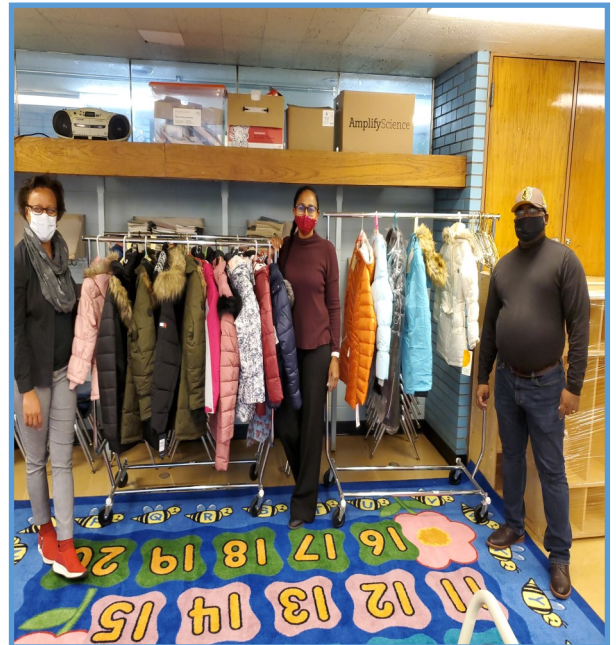


wrap, assort and assign the coats to designated students. “ It was nice to allow parents to share with their children at gift-giving time and at a time when resources are thin,” said Smith. I personally probably got too much enjoyment from un-bagging all of the different sizes and styles, looking at the matching accessories, and imagining the joy the children would feel upon receiving their new coats.

To those who purchased coats for this endeavor,

Thank You

You gave unselfishly, and recognize that your resources have purpose in being shared. We do not publish articles like this to brag about what we have done. Our purpose is to stay connected, and to remind ourselves and others of what true ministry looks like. If giving from the heart is displayed, it may also be inspiration to others. In the words of Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams, “We just want to be a blessing.” A very special thanks is due to Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., to which our pastor belongs. Their generous donation of coats and winter accessories allowed St. Paul to bless even more families.



St. Paul Dir. Of CE, Traci Simmons, STLS Advocate Kelly Smith, Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams with donated coats from St. Paul C.M.E. Church

Recipe of The Month

Jazzy Grits



Submitted by Traci Simmons

Have your grits gotten a little mundane? Here's a simple way to add some flare and **jazz** up your grits!

What You'll Need (for about four servings)

- 1 Large slice of real ham (not lunchmeat style)
- 1 Thick slice of your favorite onion
- 1 Large fresh garlic clove
- 1 Slice of your favorite pepper (red, green, yellow, etc.,)
- 1/2 Cup of shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 Stick of salted butter or margarine
- 1 Table spoon of olive oil



Grits (use salt, pepper, butter to season the grits as usual)

Prepare the grits (you know how), keeping them on the looser side.

While they are cooking, dice all of the other ingredients to a small size and sauté them in a frying pan in few squares of butter/margarine and the olive oil. You will not need to add salt or seasoning to this because the butter and fresh garlic will do the trick.

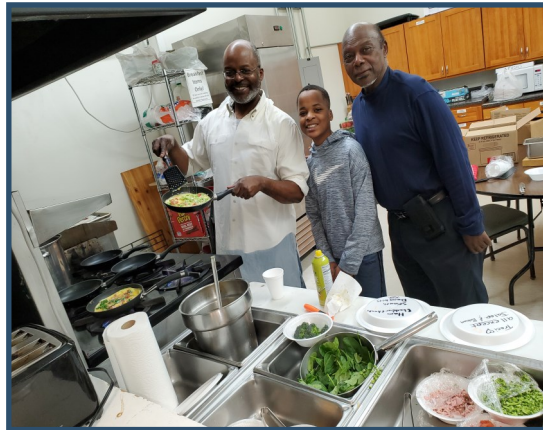
Once the ingredients are sauteed, nicely browned, and well blended, place them in a small bowl for presentation and preservation. Do not get rid of any of the oil (It adds more jazz)

Plate your grits and adorn them with your sauté; Allow some of the butter/oil to drizzle down the sides (exercise later). Sprinkle the cheese as you like. Notice in my dish I added a few small shrimp to the mix.

Two splashes of Tabasco on your personal plate take this dish to the next level!



Wonderful Memories



Wonderful Memories

