

"It's A New Day!"



Vol. 2, No. 3 April 2021

## In This Month's Voice...

### St. Paul Star of The Month

A Jack of many trades

Don't Miss It!

Have You Seen *Mr. Church?*

Trustee's Tablet

From the president's heart

4644 Snap

Our senior grant winner shares

Recipe of The Month

Will return next month

Black History Corner

History within our house

If you missed it, then read about it!

Invite Someone this Wednesday!



Edited, Published & All Articles Written by Traci Simmons unless otherwise

indicated.

Proof-reading by Nelson H. Simmons

This past Christmas, both of my sons asked for a cross chain (a necklace with a cross pendant). At different times in the past, I myself have wanted a gold cross charm on either a necklace or bracelet, but refused to purchase one. Too many foul-mouthed, bad-behaving, "fake Christians" had completely tarnished the perception I had of what wearing a cross should mean. At first, I grimaced a bit when I saw that item on their lists, and I half-way decided to try and sway them from that desire. But as days passed, I pictured myself telling them that they shouldn't want to wear the symbol of Jesus Christ. I walked in my mind through the process of telling two young men who study the Bible, pray regularly, worship Christ, and profess Christianity, that because some *other* people don't represent the cross properly, they too should not wear one. Needless to say, that wasn't happening.

Of course I understand that my boys are at the age where they're influenced heavily by what they see on screens in cyber-world. And who doesn't like the way "gold" jewelry shimmers against his or her skin or smooth-textured clothing? While all of that may have fed into their desire, I also knew that they were well aware of what the symbol of the cross means—a representation of the instrument of the crucifixion of Jesus, His love, His death, and our faith as Christians. And so if they could wear Jesus on a baseball cap, or represent their church or episcopal district with a T-Shirt, why should I have a problem with their appropriate representation of the cross?

How many times, and in what other ways do we as Christians *not* do something because of how the world has made it appear? Instead of concerning ourselves with who is doing things for the wrong reasons, perhaps we should just make sure that we're doing them for the right reasons. People who do the right thing, for the right purpose, will always endure, and will outlast the imposters.

*"Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this; He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun." ~Psalm 37: 1-6*

The truth is, as Christians we are all wearing a cross. Everyday, everywhere we go, we bear the symbol and responsibility of Christianity. When you claim God as your father, and Jesus as your savior, someone is always watching to see how you will represent that. As spoken in Psalm 37, God will make your righteousness shine like the dawn and the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. What a privilege to be able to have our purpose in Jesus shine like the dawn!

So whether the cross is hanging in silver or gold around your neck, or whether it is hidden in your heart, it is present. The question is, how will you *wear* yours? What will others see when they look at how you represent the cross?



**“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.  
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”**

Matthew 28:6

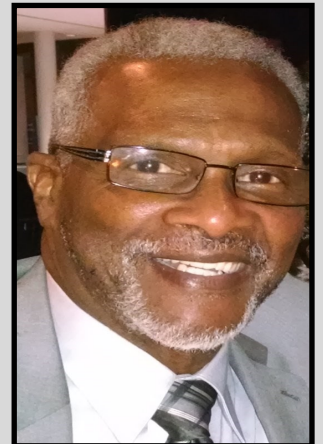
As we come through another Lenten and Easter season, I am often challenged by trying to share a familiar story in a new way. The bedrock of our Faith is the Easter story. Yet, in my effort to come with something new and original each year, God always brings me back to two simple words, “He Lives.” It is because Jesus Lives that I have hope for tomorrow. Because of His sacrifice for me and his ultimate Resurrection, I too have access to Eternal Life. Now, He lives in my heart, life, family and ministry. St. Paul, let us all strive to make sure Jesus lives in us.

**Blessings & Peace**  
**Rev. Dr. Curlee L. Adams**  
**Senior Pastor**  
**Saint Paul CME Church**

Hello St. Paul Family!

The Lord is still blessing our Father’s House at 4644 S. Dearborn. YES, all our needs are being met throughout the Sanctuary and the Education Building. YES, St. Paul is ALIVE and WELL! Still Leaning on the Lord, And YES, we have plenty of work to do. We are particularly excited and encouraged about occupancy of the Educational Building and the work required to facilitate.

Aside from the brick-and-mortar issues, what has this writer’s heart racing is the spirit of the Trustee Board Members and watching God’s work firsthand. Let us start with the three (3) new members who were mentioned in the last Newsletter.



**Robert Adams** joined the Trustee’s upon his retirement from his employment last October 2020.

**David Hibbler** joined the Trustee’s, and most recently we are celebrating his recovery from health issues. He will also be retiring May 2021.

**Robert Davenport** has come aboard with great participation.

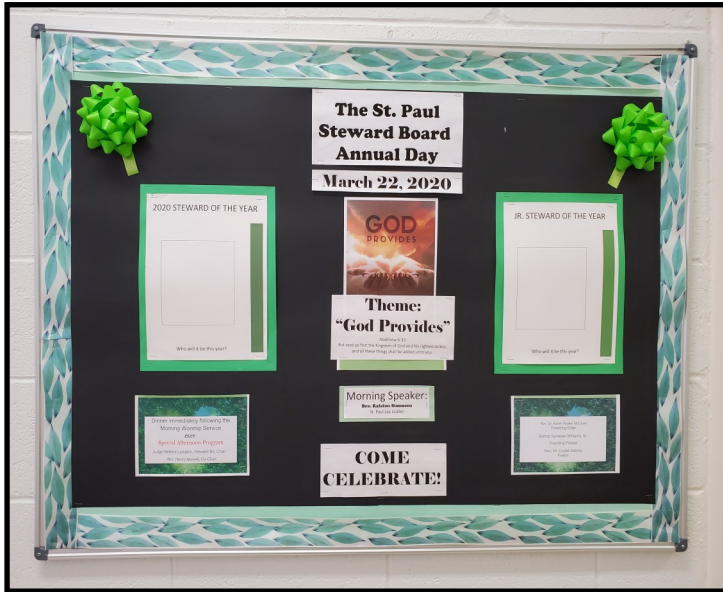
These are celebrations and blessings. All three have mentioned their dedication to improve St. Paul and have displayed great energy and spirit. I’ve heard members say they “want to make St. Paul perfect during re-entry”, “Let’s get ready for the future of St. Paul,” and that they have found it to be a beautiful and historic church.

I believe that this spirit is pleasing to the Lord and expresses great faith. So, there you have it... St. Paul, “Faith” is the word of today.

The Trustee Board welcomes all comments and suggestions. Until next time, stay safe by wearing your mask and using social distancing.

**From Bro. Clarence Highsmith**  
**President, Trustee Board**

## Stewards Day Delivered...Again!



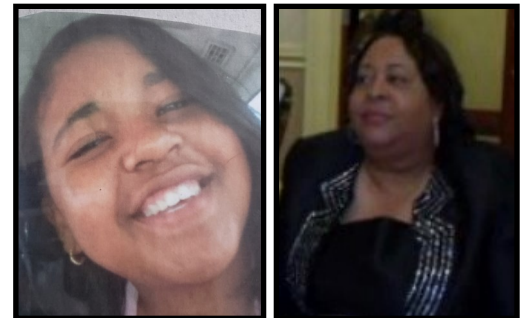
The bulletin board was festively adorned and plans were made in great anticipation of celebrating Steward's Day 2021 inside of the church. As the situation warranted however, plans were altered and there was no dinner following service, no afternoon program, and we did not celebrate inside of the church. Nevertheless, we did watch **God provide!**

Everything we would have had inside of the building, we certainly experienced in our virtual celebration of this annual day. From start to finish, our new and veteran, junior and senior stewards, participated in the worship service. Steward **Ralston Simmons** spelled out many ways in which the world panicked

and prepared during this pandemic, and the assurance that God provided for us not to "worry about tomorrow."

The awards for Junior Steward and Steward of The Year were given to Sis. **Crystal Rayford** and Sis. **Carmelita Connor** for their outstanding support, service, and stewardship dedicated to their church. They each have a set of unique qualities which have been assets to the Steward Board and church body. Guest soloists in the persons of **Rashad Talley** and **Rashada Dawan** sang us into peace of mind with "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," and "God Provides" respectively.

**Margaret Fergusson, Kathryn Randall, and Dorothy Stewart** are the Stewards honored for their work on earth who have now gone to their reward in Heaven. St. Paul has truly been a blessed body!



The day would not have been complete without a tradition started several years ago by Steward Board President, **Judge Bertina Lampkin**. This year, the *Steward Board Steppers*, **Nelson Simmons, Vertis Clemons, Rutherford Simmons III, Maya Doss, Pamela Wafford, Bertina Lampkin, and Yolanda Doss** (pictured below)



raised the roof in a dance, *God Is Good!*

"Stewards are to be men and women of solid piety with natural and acquired abilities to transact the temporal business of the church. In my 30 plus years as a Steward of St. Paul, I have never in my professional career, worked with more talented, dedicated and inspiring people of GOD! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who will continue to do God's will, The Lord being our helper!" These words spoken by Steward Board President, Justice Bertina Lampkin along with the theme, pretty much sum up the day.

**God Provides!**

Don't Miss It!

Bible Study (virtual)

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

The Minor Prophets/Hosea

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.

Spring Convocation

Fri. and Sat. April 9th & 10th

First Lady Lisa Adams' Birthday

Monday April 19th

Missionary Prayer Breakfast

Saturday April 24th 9 a.m.

St. Paul Movie Night

Saturday April 24th

"Mr. Church"

Annual Missionary Day

Sunday April 25th

Mother's Day

Sunday May 9th

Women's Day Weekend

May 14th—16th

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



Shout Out To Participants of the

Elizabeth Johnson

Encouragement Writing Grant

ELEMENTARY

*Trinity Long*

MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Nelson Simmons\**

*Rutherford Simmons\**

HIGH SCHOOL

*Gabrielle Davenport\**

*Maya Doss*

*Jeffrey "BJ" Owens*

*Lauren Simmons*

*\*These individuals received one of the  
five top awards in their group*

“Either write something worth  
reading or do something worth

writing.”

Benjamin Franklin



# Recap!

## Greetings to everyone!

Here are a few recaps of St. Paul's Youth and Young Adult Week during C.Y.Y.A.W. What is C.Y.Y.A.W. you ask?..... It means **Connectional Youth and Young Adult Week**. During this week, youth and young adults from all districts in the C.M.E. denomination take part in utilizing their gifts starting with Sunday services as well as other activities/events throughout the week. This week typically happens the last week of January into the first week of February every year.

**ST. PAUL C.M.E. Church**  
Youth and Young Adults-presents

**SUPER SERVICES**

**Sunday Service 1/31/2021**  
Rev. Allen Mitchell  
VIA ZOOM Meeting ID: 652 499 5923 Password: 728994  
Rev. Dr. Curleo Adams, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Karen Walker-McClure, Presiding Elder  
Bishop Sylvester Williams, Presiding Prelate

**Feb. 1st Revival 2/01/2021**  
Rev. Kalif Crutcher

**Feb. 2nd Revival 2/02/2021**  
Rev. Dr. Tiggs Washington  
VIA ZOOM Meeting ID: 913 7091 1724 Password: 000721

\*Sunday, January 31st -11 AM  
Monday & Tuesday, February 1st & 2nd -6 PM

St. Paul partook in several events beginning with a musical selection from the Owens Family at the 3D Youth and Young Adult kickoff held via ZOOM as Rev. Zach Mullens from the St. Louis District was the host for that service. Next, St. Paul had it's Sunday service via ZOOM on January 31st as Rev. Allen Mitchell, pastor of Cleaves Memorial C.M.E. in Oakland, TN, was the guest preacher.

Later on that week, St. Paul's Youth and Young Adults had their 2nd annual Youth and Young Adult Revival at 6pm via ZOOM. The first night was Monday, February 1st with Rev. Kalif Crutcher, pastor of New Hope C.M.E. Church in Evanston, IL, as the guest preacher. On Tuesday, February 2nd, Rev. Dr. Tiggs Washington, pastor of Williams Temple C.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, concluded the revival night. All three virtual services allowed other youth and young adults from St. Paul to participate and display their talents/gifts.

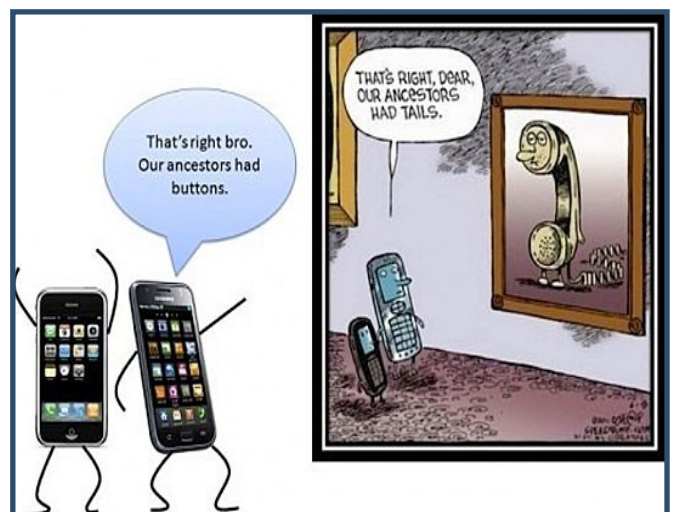
As the week of January 31st -February 6th was coming to an end, a few of the young adults from St. Paul were a part of the Chicago District Communion Service under the leadership of Min. Stephanie Rogers- Carter. Sis. Jasmine Owens, St. Paul's Young Adult President led the praise and worship section of the service in conjunction with other young adults in the Chicago District.

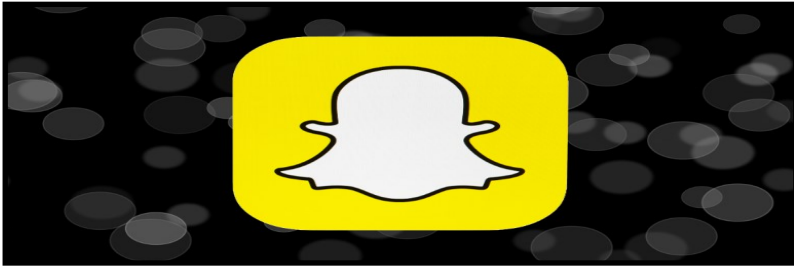
Although C.Y.Y.A.W. was very busy, St. Paul's Youth and Young Adults want to thank EVERYONE for their support. I would like to also thank all the participants in all three services for either submitting their videos in a timely manner or attending those services and doing their part.

**THANK YOU!**

**FIRST TIMOTHY**  
**4:12**

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.





## How Do You See God Working During This Pandemic?

Submitted by **Gabrielle Davenport**

"In all ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" Proverbs 3:5-6 is a bible verse that has stuck with me since the start of this pandemic. From the start of the quarantine until today's time I've realized so much about myself. There have been many trials and tribulations I had to overcome and I just thank God for being there for me every step of the way. My friends and family have also been a part of my journey during this time and I'm so grateful for the support they have given me. The connection I have with the most high has to be one of the greatest accomplishments in my life.

Now, how do you see God working through this Pandemic you ask? Well let's just say He has worked many miracles. When we were put under lock-down last year, I was struck with boredom and I found myself being repetitive with my actions which was waking up, eating, sitting on the phone and going to sleep. I told myself that I needed to stop being lazy and start being productive and use the items around me to be creative. As I was writing in my journal, I prayed and asked God what could I do to keep myself occupied. I learned how to style and sew clothes and I never knew I had the ability to do these things. Ever since this day I have become more interested in trying out new things and I am blessed to say making clothes has blessed me financially by selling them.

Apart from this, God has helped me out a lot dealing with who can be in my life and who is going to be out of it. I sometimes have a difficult time trying to figure out who really has good intentions for me but, I prayed about them and God always tells me the information I need to know. The start of quarantine I had a good amount of people who I called friends, but later on down the line, those friends had to become strangers. One thing I have learned, is that God will take people out of your life because of the conversations He heard behind your back. I am just glad that he opened my eyes and guided me the right way through the negative situations I went through with people.

As expressed, I have learned a lot about myself during this pandemic. Even though I started off not knowing what was the next step for me, I prayed constantly and hoped for a better outcome. This pandemic has not been the best at all but, there were many blessings I received out of it. I will continue to grow and always have God in my life no matter what. As always, "In all ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" Proverbs 3 :5-6.

**Gabrielle, aka "Gabby" is a senior at Butler College Prep in Chicago, Illinois.**

**In her spare time, she likes to sew and paint. Gabby is looking forward to attending college next year.**

## Black History Corner

Please celebrate and enjoy this pictorial of a piece of our history as highlighted by

Sis. Traci Simmons & Justice Bertina Lampkin



# CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY



**As we continue our celebration of Black History Month, the Illinois Judicial Council would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served on the Appellate level of justice in Illinois.**



**While Appellate justices do not conduct trials, they review the rulings and evidence from the lower courts. They serve as an important backstop in the effort to insure that the justice system is fair and that there is equal access to justice.**

**We hail their achievements and their dedication. The history of African American jurists serving on the Appellate level provides a window into why it is so important to know, remember and celebrate**

**Black history and to why it is important to have representative diversity on all levels of the court system.**

**The photographic exhibit below lists state and federal judges serving on the Appellate level in Illinois from 1976 through 2021. We hope to post a brief biography of each justice on the Illinois Judicial Council's website at [www.illinoisjudicialcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisjudicialcouncil.org) in the future. Please visit our website for more information, exhibits and newsletters.**

**Sincerely,**

Handwritten signature of Shadley S. White.

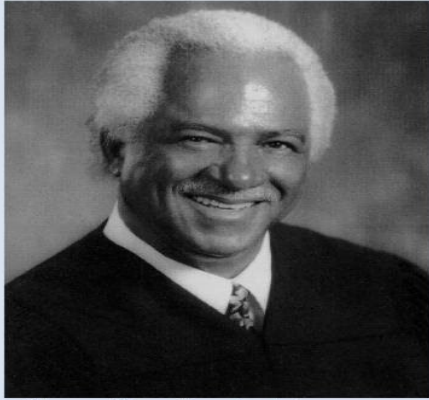
**President, Illinois Judicial Council**



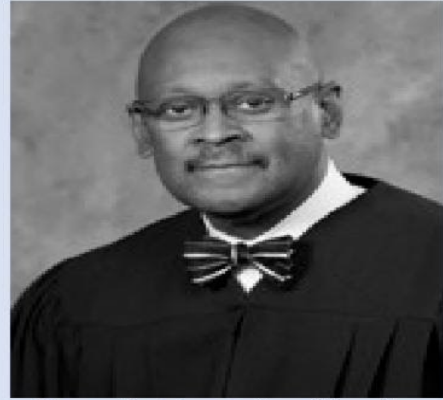
# ILLINOIS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

## TRIBUTE TO BLACK APPELLATE LEVEL JUSTICES OF ILLINOIS

### Illinois Supreme Court



Hon. Charles E. Freeman



Hon. P. Scott Neville, Jr.

### U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals



Hon. Ann Claire Williams

### Illinois Appellate Court



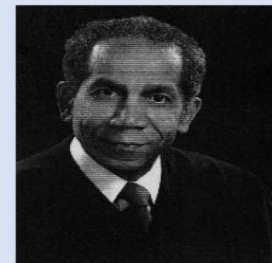
Hon. George N. Leighton



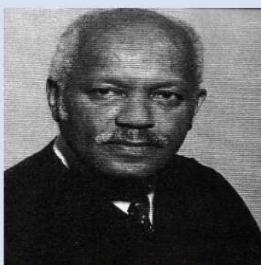
Hon. Glenn T. Johnson



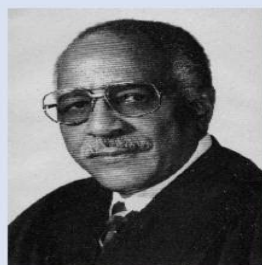
Hon. Kenneth E. Wilson



Hon. Calvin Campbell



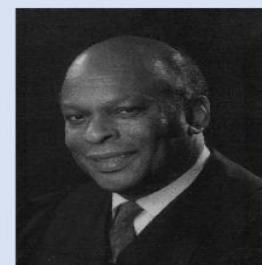
Hon. William S. White



Hon. R. Eugene Pincham



Hon. Blanche M. Manning



Hon. Carl McCormick





Hon. William Cousins, Jr.



Hon. Everette A. Braden



Hon. Leslie E. South



Hon. Shelvin L.M. Hall



Hon. Ellis E. Reid



Hon. Mary McDade



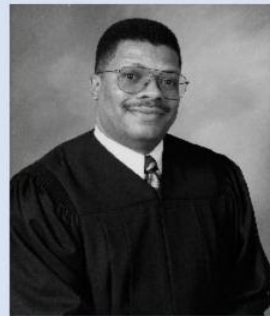
Hon. Joy V. Cunningham



Hon. Sharon J. Coleman



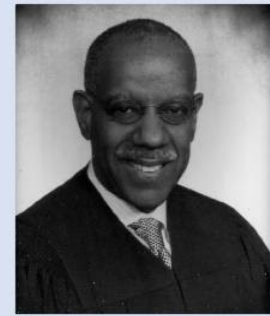
Hon. John O. Steele



Hon. Nathaniel R. Howse



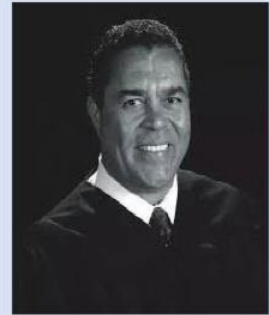
Hon. Bertina E. Lampkin



Hon. Marcus R. Salone



Hon. Lisa Holder White



Hon. William H. Taylor



Hon. Cynthia Y. Cobbs



Hon. Carl A. Walker



Hon. Sharon O. Johnson



Hon. LeRoy K. Martin

*St. Paul is proud to know and  
fellowship with our own servant of  
God, Justice Bertina Lampkin.  
Continue to fight the good fight of  
faith!*



Dr. Rutherford Simmons Jr.

# St. Paul Star of The Month

“Always doing something,” is how I would describe this person; and I should know better than anyone, because the April Star is **Dr. Rutherford Simmons Jr!** This March baby has been a member of St. Paul all fifty-something years of his life. Dr. Simmons came to St. Paul with his parents, Rutherford Simmons Sr. and Gladys Simmons, his two sisters, Yvette and Yolanda, and younger brother Ralston. He began piano lessons at the age of six and has been using that particular gift in service of the church ever since. When Dr. Simmons was eight years-old, the then Rev. D.I. Isom wanted someone to play a song after Sunday School. “He asked me to play, “What A Friend We Have In Jesus,” and the rest is true history. Many musicians have come and gone through the decades, but this home-grown gentleman has endured time and circumstance with nothing but grace and professionalism.

When asked for something positive about growing up at St. Paul, Dr. Simmons reflected, “There were so many different people who did so many different things for a living; lawyers, preachers, teachers, politicians, electricians, photographers—men and women I could look at and see possibilities, and get an idea of what I might want to do for a living.”

***Favorite Scripture: Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. ~Proverbs 16:24***

Rutherford’s profession of choice, as indicated by his title, was a Doctor of Dental Science. However, those of us who know a him well, know that he may have missed his calling in carpentry and construction. Aside from the golden streets and pearly gates, Heaven to him would be a land filled with wood shops, power-tools, and drywall. Take a look around the church, and you will be certain to see some of Dr. Simmons’ handiwork.

This month’s St. Paul Star has been a true servant of God’s kingdom here on earth. He has demonstrated his love and dedication to the church through his relationships with children and young people, seniors, music ministry, building maintenance, kitchen ministry, and more.

Three memories are prevalent for me about growing up in St. Paul with Dr. Simmons: While serving together on the Youth Usher Board, every year, he ran for the position of Treasurer and won; he knew every old person’s name in the church; he would “joke” every year about how we would get married someday. Show some love to the April Star, **Rutherford B.H. Simmons, Jr.!**

## Hobbies

woodworking

bowling

traveling

## Favorite Foods

macaroni & cheese

filet mignon

smothered pork chops and/or cubed

steak with rice

butter pecan ice-cream

Nutter Butter

cookies

## Favorite St. Paul

### Memory

the day he got

married



# Tech



# Talk

By Sis. Lisa Adams

With the recent COVID pandemic, we as a church and world have been forced to move and adjust very quickly with technology. Although St Paul had already started upgrading its technology prior to the pandemic, we were forced to move a little quicker than we had anticipated. Just think, virtual membership was something we never thought about having before but with Social Media, Zoom and streaming, it's not only obtainable but sustainable.

As we move into what our new normal will be, we need to seriously think about how to broaden our reach to win souls for the Lord and grow our membership. One of the ways we're currently doing this is through the Zoom. Zoom has become one of the most used outlets for kingdom building both in and outside of the church.

Currently, we're using Zoom for service, bible study, meetings, conferences and special programs. To request the use of the Zoom account for church functions, please complete the request form located in the church office or ask to receive the online version to submit your request.

**Zoom Tips:**    [Display your name](#)                      [Log into Zoom](#)                      [Click on profile on the menu bar](#)

[Click on edit near the upper right corner](#)

[In the "Display Name" field, enter that name you would like to appear each time you log into a Zoom meeting](#)

[Save by scrolling down and clicking the button](#)

## Recipe of The Month

### Simple Springtime Smoothies

Makes 3 - 4 8 oz servings

1 banana

2 cups frozen fruit of choice

2 1/2 cup apple juice

3 ice cubes

**Throw it all in a blender or smoothie maker and enjoy!**

**Add more juice for a more free-flowing smoothie**



We have smoothies at least four times a week, that way I don't need to worry about who doesn't eat their veggies!

Helpful Hints: If you add a cup of fresh spinach, kale or collard greens, you won't taste it at all, but you'll receive all the benefits

Apple juice works better as a base than orange juice because its flavor blends better with more of a variety of fruits