



A Monthly Newsletter amplifying the many voices of St. Paul

Vol. 1, No. 2 November 2020

In This Month's Voice...

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A behind the scenes hard-worker

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A High-schooler's Creative Writing

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Members Give Thanks & More

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

By the time you read this edition of the newsletter, our nation will have a new president. He will either be new because he has never before been president of the United States; or he will be new because the affirmation and power he now feels by being once again elected into office has given him a new and even more emboldened and entitled disposition. *That* for me is a terrifying thought.




I have no idea what the outcome of this next election will be. I purposefully wrote this editorial tonight, Saturday October 31st because of what I *don't* know. Not knowing makes this writing exercise far more meaningful. Why?


Because here's what I *do* know. John 16:33 says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

The truth is, none of us ever know what's coming our way. But take heart St. Paul! When I looked up, "take heart," it means "be encouraged and optimistic!" God already knows there will be trouble, but He has told us that in Him we can still have PEACE! In fact, God has commanded us to be optimistic and encouraged in the midst of trouble. He has overcome the White House, the Supreme Court, the world!

So I ask you believers in Christ, "Who's yo Daddy?" Our father is the biggest, baddest, most powerful, master of the universe, that's who!

I am still going to cast my vote in three more days, but whatever the outcome, I will know that I am not consumed. Why? Because my candidate has already won.

Joe Biden 
 Jesus Christ 
 Donald J Trump 

 Traci Simmons

Hey St. Paul! Is there an article you'd like to see in the Voice? Let me know. Story ideas and submissions are always welcome. We are the voice!

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

“IN ALL THINGS WE ARE TO GIVE THANKS, FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU.”



As we enter the month of November, we all are mindful of the upcoming holiday we know as Thanksgiving. In light of everything that is happening in the world today, I am certain that Thanksgiving will take on a new meaning. Whether we are able to gather or not, I believe we should always be in a mode of Thanksgiving. With that being said, I just want to thank God for keeping us together as a church despite all the turmoil in our country. I am thankful for the health and welfare of my family and church and I am thankful that God has allowed me to serve this congregation

In closing, when celebrating Thanksgiving this month, please be safe, but most importantly be thankful for what God has done and is continuing to do in your life.

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

Hey St. Paul!

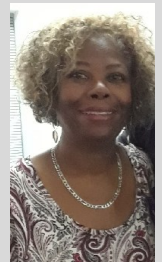
Please join me in sending thankful vibes to Bro. Bryant Smith for an outstanding job creating the new St. Paul Voice logo!



Trustee's Tablet

Greetings My St. Paul Church Family,

The Trustee Board has come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. We are very excited about what the Lord has in store for us this year. We are off to a good start as we are pleased to welcome our two newest members to the board, Bro. Robert Davenport and renewing member, Bro. David Hibbler. We are so happy to have them as part of the Trustee board.



Secondly, St. Paul we want to welcome our first peer space occupant, Praise Production Inc. (PPI). It is a non-for-profit dance studio founded by Sis Enneressa Davis. They have moved in and will be occupying rooms 204, 207 and 208. Currently dance classes will occur on Mondays from 5 p.m.—8 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m. Sis Davis has extended an invitation to the St. Paul family that may be interested, to enroll in classes by using the website “PraiseProductions.com” to register.

In terms of projects at our church, we have completed having the entire church professionally sanitized per CDC requirements. We are in the process of getting the sanctuary completely secured and exterior lights mounted around the church and educational building.

These are a few things going on with the Trustee Board. We will keep you posted as more projects and work are completed.

Until next time, stay safe by wearing your masks and using social distancing.

Sis. Trina Ridgley, Vice-President, Trustee Board

Congratulations New Officers!

Steward Board

Justice Bertina Lampkin, Chairperson

Bro. Henry Norvell, Vice-Chairperson

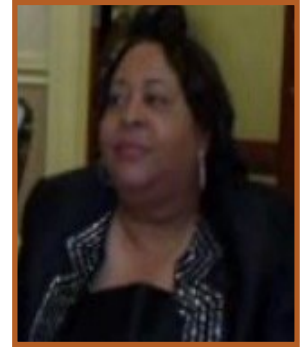
welcome
MGCOWG

Sis. Carmelita Connor

and Sis. Jacqueline Prince



Jacqueline Prince



Carmelita Connor

Trustee Board

Bro. Clarence Highsmith, President

Sis. Trina Ridgley, Vice-President

welcome
MGCOWG

Bro. Robert Davenport

and Bro David Hibbler



Robert Davenport



David Hibbler

Stewardess Board #2

Sis. Jeanette Walker, President

Sis. Earnestine Martin, Vice-President

welcome
MGCOWG

Sis. Gail Hibbler



Gail Hibbler



For What Are You Thankful?

A few St. Paul members were asked to share and give insight into something for which they are earnestly thankful. As you take in this breakdown of the word, *T-h-a-n-k-s*, I pray you will also take some time to focus on the many reasons God has given you to give thanks.

Find a quiet place, click on this link, and celebrate your own personal thanksgiving ! <https://youtu.be/mztyl7oIIRY>

Today I am thankful for a ton of things.

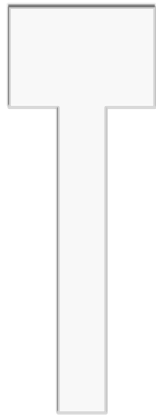
Thirty-one years of marriage with my best friend

Three terrific kids who keep me laughing and praying

Tribe membership with a full family

filled with total love support, encouragement, and positive energy

Kimberly Owens



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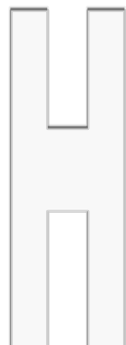
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I am thankful for my Home, my Health, and my grandma's giving Heart. It is because my grandma's Heart is so big that she has made a Home for us and takes good care of us. I am forever thankful and grateful to have my grandma.

Francettia Ford



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Everyone has an Attitude of some sort, either good, bad, or indifferent. It has taken the terrible coronavirus for me to personally understand that with God's grace, I can have a good, caring Attitude when situations occur that are new and difficult. Staying calm and prayerful during some events I have been a part of, has tested what Attitude I had. During the pandemic, a positive Attitude is a blessing! For months I have looked at the hardships many people face with no end in sight. I pray that being thankful for God's blessings helps me to have a good Attitude! I have decided to express my gratitude and thankfulness for taking a step towards a healthy, wholesome Attitude.

Mary Barnes

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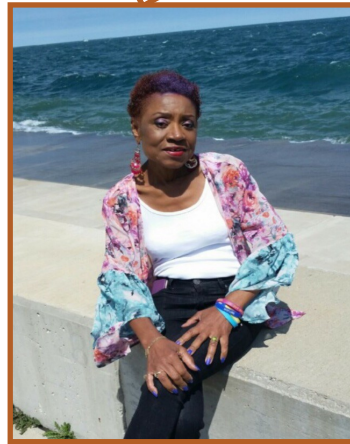
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Ninety years and counting. At the age of 43, I was probably my mom's (and dad's) "midlife crisis." Today, the age of 43 is when most people think about or are preparing to send their children off to high school or college. My mom's 43 brought with it a swaddled Black boy home to the Robert Taylor Housing Projects. By today's standards, I was supposed to be a statistic. I entered this world against the odds. So, I'm grateful for my mom and her Ninety years and counting. I'm grateful that "middle age" was not *her* middle age. I'm grateful that she, my dad, and God thought it okay for her to have one more child when she could have been done 8 years prior and free to prepare another young boy for high school.

Bryant Smith



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Just reflecting on my adult life, there are people who have extended unexpected, unbelievable acts of **Kindness** to my family. We have received things like monetary gifts, opportunities for our children, and food— for no deserving reason. The hearts that have given to us, expecting nothing in return, have shown us loves true power and purpose. And so this Thanksgiving, I am eternally grateful for the pure and genuine **Kindheartedness** of others.

Traci Simmons



K

Brothers and sisters of Chirst,
In the **Spirit** of the Lord, we are supernatural beings. If we speak in the **Spirit** and believe in the **Spirit**, it shall come to pass. We are equipped with the power to defeat our giants, so just believe and never forget that you are a child of the most high God. Remember He will never leave us alone, therefore be thankful for the Holy **Spirit** that lives within.

Vanessa Wardlaw



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St. Paul Leadership Alive And Active

September and October marked not only the beginning of a new conference year at St. Paul, they proved months of renewal and revival for St. Paul leaders. Leadership in action began on August 22nd & 24th with the Leadership Planning Meeting which was organized and lead by Lay Leader, Bro. Ralston Simmons, and Sis. Gwendolyn Ross. The two day highly interactive planning meeting was designed not simply to put events on a calendar, but to give attention to specific areas and ministries within our church that are in need of new innovations or rejuvenation.

Ministry leaders met via Zoom, separated into break-out rooms, then came together to collaborate on a vast number of ideas that will be put into play over the coming months. As part of the whole plan, regular check-ins regarding obstacles, needs, and progress will be conducted in order to ensure that the ideas that went onto paper are also moved to action. Bro. Simmons did an outstanding job of facilitating the meeting, explaining the tasks at hand, and something that's loved about any facilitator—making sure sessions ended on time!

Beginning Sunday November 17th, Junior Stewards in training will be invited into the Steward Board break-out room following morning worship. This purposeful move to have them observe the business of the church, is one manifestation of the endeavors discussed during the meeting. Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams has stated that this planning meeting will now become part of our yearly course of events.

If You Missed It, You *Really Missed It!*

The Providence Leadership Conference was held virtually October 19th—24th. People had the option to register for any one, or all of the following sessions: *Diversity & Inclusion* by Mike and Toni Nwankwo; *What The Coronavirus has taught us as Leaders And How We Must Respond* by Evonda Thomas Smith; *Star Leadership* by Rev. Dr. Richard Shaw; *Self-Leadership in an Age of Narcissism* by Rev. Dr. Patrick Daymond; *Crash! Leading Through The Wreckage: using personal power to transform your leadership* by Carla Moore

Much gratitude goes out to Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams and Sis Lisa Adams for their vision, organization and execution of this conference. The people are pleased and enriched by their work in bringing this powerful resource to our church.

I am excited and encouraged by what's to come.



We Can Be Leaders In Every Season

Lead by allowing others to see you being prepared and being on time.

Lead by allowing others to see you choosing prayer and peace instead of anger and discord.

Lead by allowing others hear you speak highly of your church and its endeavors.

Lead by allowing others to witness your attitude of

Thanksgiving!

Don't Miss It!

Bible Study: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Visit our website or call for the connection

Movie Night *The Shack*

Saturday November 14th

Thanksgiving Gift Giveaway

Thursday November 15th

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday November 26th

Tribes for Christ Closing Service

Sunday November 29th

Last Day To Request A Christmas Dinner

(St. Paul Members Only)

Sunday November 29th

Annual Christmas Dinner Drive-Through

Saturday December 13th

For details or more info, call the church office

(312) 536-1723 or visit www.stpaulcme-chi.com



Black History Corner

by Justice Bertina Lampkin



Glass Ceiling Broken!

On November 7, 2020,

Kamala Harris was declared Vice-President Elect of the

United States of America! **Kamala Harris** will be the first female United States Vice-President, the first African American, the first Asian American and the first Caribbean American to hold the post in the history of the United States! She is also the highest-ranking female elected official in United States history.

This is not her only first. She was the first African American Attorney General of California from 2011-2017 and the first African American District Attorney of San Francisco, serving in that capacity from 2004-2011. She also served as a US Senator from California from January 2017 until her election as Vice-President, and as only the second African American Woman Senator in our nation's history. *Do you know who was the first?

Her father is African American and her mother is of Indian Tamil ancestry. She received her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Economics at Howard University, an HBCU, and her law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law in 1989. There she served as President of the Black Law Student's Assoc. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Please google Vice-President Elect **Kamala Harris** to review her rich family background.





St. Paul Star of The Month



Say hello to this month's Star, Gwendolyn Ross. Most of us have noticed

Gwendolyn (better known as Gwen) working throughout the years, but her soft-spoken demeanor may leave some wondering just what she's all about.

While Gwen may be soft-spoken, she isn't exactly quiet. Those who are around her will affirm that she loves a good conversation. And while she may appear the rather serious type, Gwen loves to laugh and has a very present and sneaky sense of humor.

Favorite Scripture: But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

During her sixty plus years as a member, this St. Paul Star has at one time served on the Junior Usher Board, DI Isom Choir, Willing Workers Club, and is currently active as a Missionary, Steward, JA Hamlet Club, and Kitchen Committee member. Gwen also shared with me a few fond memories of being president of the St. Paul bowling league many moons ago.

"St. Paul was your village because everybody knew you by name. Nobody had to try to figure out who you belonged to and so everybody looked out for each other. St. Paul was a great place to grow up. If something happened to one person, everyone rallied around that one, because that was your village." Gwen reflected.

Born in Chicago, this July baby has one sister, and one son and daughter which she shares with her late husband George Ross. She is also a proud grandmother of three, and great-grandmother of twin girls. Gwen is a great example of how one does not need to make a lot of noise in order to get many things accomplished. Her service and spirit of cooperation have been a blessing to our church in various ways throughout the years. Let's show some love to the November Star, Gwendolyn Ross!

Hobbies

bowling, serving, cooking, sudoku, mind puzzles

Favorite Foods

almost any seafood (except calamari)

Favorite St. Paul Memories

The Mammoth Tea when 40 plus clubs would serve and decorate their tables

The dedication ceremony for the Education Building when people went around the poles in the dining room, wrapping them in crepe paper



4644
Snap



Submitted by Maya Doss

After the George Floyd, and the Brianna Taylor events I decided to express my frustrations through creative writing and taking on the persona of a person of another group of Americans who are also marginalized. I didn't continue this piece, but after the request for the newsletter, I decided to continue writing in this young woman's diary.

Introduction

I can't believe how bad things are now. I thought people would listen, but humans are too stubborn. More and more attacks on basic human rights are happening. I used to think we had freedom of speech, but it was only for the privileged majority; The white Americans who were told for generations that they have nothing to fear or worry about. The system actually takes care of them. I learned that a long time ago from my great-grandmother, who was a Native-American woman. She knew the truth about them, about how they put anyone different from them down to make themselves feel higher and better about themselves because they weren't too special.

We are all humans who breath and bleed. I am a part of two groups who colonists and so called "I was born here Americans" treated poorly. One where colonists killed, enslaved and raped. And the other, African-Americans, the exact same thing. They love the different cultures of other places, but not the people. When white people always tell non-whites to leave, I can't leave, this is my ancestors' home and my ancestors helped build this country. If we did leave, our money, our work, and our cultures would leave, but America needs it badly. These are the many reasons why I am starting the rebellion to fix America. I am the leader, Grace Thompson, and this is my story.

Diary Day 1

I am finally 18 years old. I finally get to vote and make a difference in society and in the world. I am a Senior in high school but I finally get a voice in what happens in America. I am a part of the Community Service club at school. I just love to help people, especially since human decency has disappeared since human existence. I live with my younger brother, my mom, my dad, and my grandmother. Sadly, a few months ago, my great-grandmother passed away in her sleep. However, the day before she died, she gave me a heart locket. She told me to keep fighting and to make a change before the worse comes. I always knew that racism, sexism, and homophobia was built up and taught in this country and all over the world. Change needs to come, and I am not talking about one little law being added, I am talking about throwing away the whole government system. It won't be easy, I can't do it alone. I need to create a special team and then my idea will grow in size.



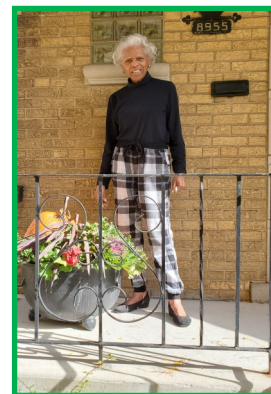
Recipe of The Month

Southern Fried Cabbage Submitted by Johnnie Norvell



What You Will Need

- 1 med sized pot
- 1 small green cabbage
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 large bell pepper
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 –2 table spoon Lawry’s garlic salt (green & white bottle w parsley)
- 1/2 cup water



Directions

Prepare Cabbage:

After washing, separate green cabbage leaves

Roll together, cut, slice, and put aside

Do the same with white leaves

Dice garlic cloves

Rinse green pepper and cut into long, thin slices



Heat water in separate pot

Heat oil to medium temperature

Put in dark green leaves first, a few slices of pepper and half of garlic cloves; Sprinkle in about half of the garlic salt and stir gradually for five minutes



Put in remaining cabbage, garlic salt, peppers, and sliced garlic cloves

Stir off-and-on for fifteen minutes

Add hot/boiling water after stirring for about 10 min

Do not overcook!

Your cabbage is ready to enjoy!

