

The St. Paul **Voice**

A Monthly Newsletter amplifying the many *voices* of St. Paul

Vol. 1, No. 1 October 2020

Welcome to The Voice!

The general “news” portion of the newsletter will contain relevant articles on what has taken place in St. Paul. This main section may contain anything from reports and highlights of events, to fun or spiritual observations (new members, music, technology, etc.), within the church.

St. Paul Star of The Month

will feature a different member each month. This section will appreciate all things positive about St. Paul members, help others to know more about their church family, and encourage active church membership.

Don't Miss It!

will provide a list and/or brief description of upcoming events. The events will primarily be those of St. Paul, but may also include relative C.M.E. and/or community happenings.

Trustee's Tablet

will be an update and report on what's going on with the physical structure of the church. It may also contain things that members need to be aware of regarding visitors (renters, programs, etc.) to our building.

4644 Snap (derived from Snapchat)

will be an article written by a St. Paul child, youth or young adult. They may choose their topic or be assigned one.

Recipe of The Month

A step-by-step guide to creating something good to eat or drink as shared by one of St. Paul's very own.

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen, Amen, Amen!”

Man, how long has it been since we stood, hand-in-hand, wrapped in a gigantic circle around the sanctuary singing those words? Sunday after Sunday, as we felt the heat from one another's touch and the vibrations from each other's voices, I believe that we did appreciate the

moments—the collective praise and the love of St. Paul family. But did anyone sing the song as if it were the last time or hug their neighbor as if it were their last hug? On Sunday March 8, 2020, did any person serve in their position with the best of efforts, or offer extra kindness or forgiveness to anyone as Jesus has always offered us? I know I didn't.

I didn't because that Sunday was just another Sunday at church—or so I thought.

I am so grateful that God has equipped and enabled us to continue worship and fellowship on-line. However, when we are blessed to return through the doors of 4644 S. Dearborn Street, I'll be looking at each of you through a different lens, and loving you with a renewed heart. I believe that most of you will do the same. Like I do, I believe that you also have a greater understanding of what's really important and valuable in this life. Let's help to keep one another on track *with love* when that time comes. And until that time, let us be safe, wise and of good courage.



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!

Edited and Published by Traci A. Simmons

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

“FOR WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT”

As we officially present our church newsletter, I cannot thank God enough for how far we have come as

a church. The Lord has blessed our efforts year after year. Today, we celebrate not only how far we have

come, but also, where we are going as a body of believers and church. I want to personally thank Sis.

Traci Simmons for her hard work in making this Newsletter a reality. She, as well as her entire family are

a blessing to St. Paul. Please take time to not only read and view the newsletter, but also, share it with

family, friends and long time members of our church. I know you will be blessed by its content. May

God bless you and keep you in His care.

Blessings & Peace

Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams, Senior Pastor St. Paul C.M.E. Church



A House Still Choosing In These Days To Serve By Traci Simmons

As we move forward in this new conference year, one word that comes to mind for me is, “choices.” We have been faced with many new choices, we have questioned ourselves regarding matters for which there were only obvious choices in the past, and there are some choices we used to make freely that have been completely removed from our control.

Our pastor, Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams, has chosen to maximize our safety by not having in-person worship. And while that is a simple statement, he has informed us that much thought, prayer, and weight goes into that decision month after month.

St. Paul members and frequent guests meet via Zoom every Sunday morning for both Sunday School and morning service. Bible Study is alive and well attended each Wednesday. We continue to affirm our faith, worship God in song, hear the preached word, have first Sunday communion, support the church with our finances, and fellowship upon conclusion. Our stewards continue to fulfill their duties in Zoom breakout rooms, and our trustees continue to monitor and care for the physical structure. We have not stopped doing drive-by's to check on one another or sending cards and care-packages in celebration and support of our church family. All choices.

More than ever, when we could choose to not give, as no one is watching the collection plate pass; When we could choose to not love, as no bodies are present for us to hug; When we could choose not to say amen, as all voices are on mute; We could not be present on Zoom, as few have a screen large enough to monitor everyone, St. Paul has *chosen* in every way, to demonstrate Christian discipleship. We have lost a few good soldiers, but we are salt that has not lost its flavor. May God continue to be magnified within St. Paul and every church choosing to let its light shine before others.



As for me and my house...



Ms. Lorraine Parker keeps administrative tasks moving Tues—Friday in our church office.



Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams reaches and preaches via Zoom every Sunday at 11 a.m.



Mr. Bobby Golden provides security presence and custodial services daily.



H.S. grad David Demus was among many recognized and awarded during Grads & Awards Recognition Sunday in late June.



H.S. Graduate Crystal Rayford was visited by several *masked* St. Paul members in a surprise drive-by.



This one is for fond reflection. Keep on praying!

Don't Miss It!

Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School (adult and teen classes) & Morning Worship

9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Providence Leadership Conference

October 19th—24th

Virtual Movie Night

October 24th 6 p.m.

VOTE!

Tuesday November 3rd

Thanksgiving Basket

Giveaway

November 15th

Tribes for Christ Closing Service

November 29th

Last Day to Request A Christmas Dinner

(St. Paul members only)

November 29th

For more details on any of the above, please visit www.stpaulcme-chi.com



St. Paul CME Church in Chicago, Illinois Cares for the Community

By Sandra Simmons

St. Paul CME Church has partnered with the Lugenia Burns Hope Center to work on various community initiatives. The center is a community-based organization that was founded in 1994 by former President Barack Obama and Centers for New Horizon's CEO Dr. Sokoni Karanja. It was founded as a leadership development and organizing institute. Their mission is to develop the civic engagement of residents in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood and other communities, through education, leadership development and community organizing.



St. Paul's, Rev. Dr. Curlee Adams had worked with The Hope Center's Director, Roderick Wilson in the past. This summer they teamed up again to provide PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and household cleaning items to senior residents. Each month, Hope Center members and members from St. Paul meet at the church to assemble and pack PPE for distribution to senior citizens in our communities. The PPE kits consist of masks, hand sanitizer, hand soap, gloves, body soap, paper towels, toilet paper, household cleansers and dishwashing liquid. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the distribution of these products has been quite helpful to our seniors. The kits are taken to senior housing for distribution. St. Paul will continue the partnership to work on various community projects in the future.

As we continue in our fight against the deadly Covid-19 virus, please remember to wear your mask, wash/sanitize your hands frequently and practice social distancing.



You Should Know...

Daylight Savings 2020 ends at 2 a.m on Sunday Nov. 1st

General Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 3rd beginning at 6 a.m.



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The largest pumpkin grown in Illinois weighed in at 2,145 pounds. It won the 2015 state championship and was 383 pounds lighter than the largest pumpkin grown in the US.

4644 Snap



The following is an article published in the July 1, 2020 edition of the Chicago Crusader, written by Nelson

Simmons on the night of the riots in reaction to the murder of George Floyd. The sentiments are those of Nelson which were expressed at that moment of time.

Dear Rioters:

I don't think I've ever been this angry in my life. You say that you want racial equality, but you give many reasons for people to be racist. Rioting isn't going to fix anything. It's only going to make people more racist than they already are! You can't riot, loot stores, and burn police stations then expect people to view Blacks as a whole to seem more innocent. I'm pissed off!

I know African Americans have had it hard, but we have to channel our anger and frustration in a different way, if we want others to realize and appreciate a change in our attitudes and behavior.

When you wake up one morning and your local Jewel Osco, Family Dollar, GameStop, Walmart, Chase Bank, CVS, Walgreens or Burger King is closed down, I just want you to remember that was you who caused it.

At the end of all this, none of your rioting or looting will matter. We still won't have racial equality.

Now, I believe that Black Lives Matter, but we have to show that we believe this in a peaceful and calm way. My parents said that even though truly racist people don't care what "group" I'm from, the main thing I can do is to change the way I am perceived. In order for this to happen, I have to walk, speak, dress, and even educate myself differently than that "other" group with brown skin.

Article continued on page 6



Trustee's Tablet

At the forefront right now according to Trustee Board President Clarence Highsmith is one issue, "Security." "Because no one is attending church, we need heightened awareness of what's going on at night and of what we have in terms of equipment." said Highsmith. He notes that criminals are able to take advantage of more hours in the day.



As we strive to stay current with all that's needed for business affairs, solid web presence, and worship, we also require electronic and other equipment of value on the premises. President Highsmith would like for everyone to know that security is being addressed at St. Paul. Here are a few things that have been put into place: Two security monitors added; A gated and locked sanctuary, preventing access to the main floor and balcony; Good communication with our Alderperson and CPD. Look for more updates and information on next month's *Tablet*.

From Service to Training for Change

After ten years of serving as Recording Steward on St. Paul's Steward Board, Dr. Elnora P. Hamb has passed the torch to other capable hands. The finances of our church have for years been in great order, and reported with detail and accuracy. While much of this is attributed to our highly astute Steward Board members, the production of the final report has been the tedious work of outgoing Recording Steward Hamb.

Appointed by Pastor Jerome Wheat, Dr. Hamb counts it an honor to have contributed her gifts to her church. She stated that, "You can't just join the Steward Board. The pastor has to see something in you to want to make you an officer of the church."

However, after countless years on the Board, she felt like technological changes as well as those surrounding her own body mechanics, were leading her to help raise up another officer.

Please support and congratulate Sis. Pamela Wafford as she has accepted the training and title of Recording Secretary! And let us again appreciate the years of Service of Dr. Elnora P. Hamb.

4644 Snap Continued from page 5

But, what about the white lady who sees me the same as that "other" group.

I don't want to have to worry about a police officer who doesn't know the difference. I don't want a knee on my neck because he sees me the same as them! I don't understand how I can be this incensed at a group of people I identify this much with.

I don't know how I can say this after what I just said. I'm not ashamed of being Black. I'm not. Black is beautiful. We can change the way in which people identify us, but we have to do it in a peaceful, positive, and noticeable way in order to be beautifully Black.

Nelson Simmons

Twanda



St. Paul Star of The Month



Say hello to the October Star, Twanda Carroll! Twanda is one of St. Paul's newer members, and one who did not stay seated for long. When I met Twanda, I encountered a warm and friendly spirit with a cautious disposition. She came into our church ready to worship, learn, and laugh, but also demonstrating an awareness of the feelings of those around her.

Favorite Scripture

John 3:16 ~ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Originally from St. Louis, MO, Twanda has three brothers, one sister, two daughters, one son, and eight grandsons. Wow! When asked why she was moved to join our church family, Twanda stated that she wanted to join a great church. She wanted to be in a place where she felt good not only about the pastor, but the members as well. "Being connected to St. Paul helped me feel connected to the Lord. I was dealing with a lot, and I'm so grateful for the spirit and energy I felt when I walked into the building." I could hear the sincerity in Twanda's voice.

Just as Twanda feels that St. Paul has been a blessing in her life, the church has been blessed by her membership. Twanda's gleeful attitude can be experienced every Sunday when she stands in her Usher's uniform and welcomes folks into the sanctuary. Most recently, Twanda has taken on a special project at our church. She has "adopted" the first floor bathroom!

Hobbies

being around people, taking care of people, hair, nails and making people look beautiful

Favorite Foods

crab legs, lobster tails, dressing

Favorite St. Paul Memory

becoming a member of St. Paul three years ago



Twanda's "baby" has been given an adorable new look. What a great example of a simple, but meaningful way to use one's gifts within God's house. Let's pray we can get into the church soon to check it out in person!

Thank You Twanda!

They Said, "Yes!"



Rev. Kalif G. Crutcher
& Min. Brittney Adams
September 7, 2020

2020
St. Paul Engagements



Andrew Eugene Gillett
& Katia Ariel Adams
July 4, 2020



Clarence Highsmith & Pamela Wafford
September 28, 2020

Coping Through Cooking

By Daphne Davenport

We are finding new ways to cope with staying at home during this pandemic. With a large chunk of time on our hands, we have been busy doing some things that we have never done before. Once you have tried some things, you actually found out that you are really good at what you thought you couldn't do and it turned out really well.

I have had the pleasure of talking with two beautiful ladies whom I adore and stay in touch with, Sis. Sandra Simmons and Sis. Brenda Dockery. We have something in common. We love to try new dishes. We have shared our First dish, and it was a dish that we have never made before. That dish was **Shrimp/Chicken Fried Rice**. We sent pictures to one another and shared on how we made it. All the pictures look so delicious. The point I'm trying to make is, you can do anything! With God all things are possible!! Even making a little dish of **Shrimp/Chicken Fried Rice** for the first time. Staying in touch with my sisters in Christ also gives us an opportunity to lift one another up with inspirational words of encouragement during this pandemic.

Let us continue to try new things. God put us where we are now for such a time as this.

We hope you enjoy our **Shrimp/Chicken Fried Rice, *Black Folks Style!***

Recipe of The Month

Shrimp/Chicken Fried Rice *Black Folks Style*

Prepared by Daphne Davenport, Brenda Dockery & Sandra Simmons

INGREDIENTS

2 cups chilled cooked rice
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup chopped yellow onion (more or less)
1/2 cup chopped green onion (more or less)
1/2 cup soy sauce
1 lb shrimp, thawed, peeled, and deveined/ or chopped chicken breast
1/4 cup olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Step 1

In a saucepan bring water to a boil. Add rice and stir. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Set aside and allow rice to cool.

Step 2

Heat a large skillet or wok for 2 minutes. When the skillet or wok is hot, pour in vegetable oil, and onions, vegetables. Mix well and cook for 3 minutes.

Step 3

Mix in cooled rice and shrimp/chicken and cook for another 3 minutes. Stirring constantly.

Step 4

Mix in green onions, eggs, salt, pepper, soy sauce or whatever seasonings you prefer and Cook for another 4 minutes, stirring continuously, until eggs are cooked and everything is blended evenly.



Daphne's Dish



Brenda's Dish



Sandra's Dish