

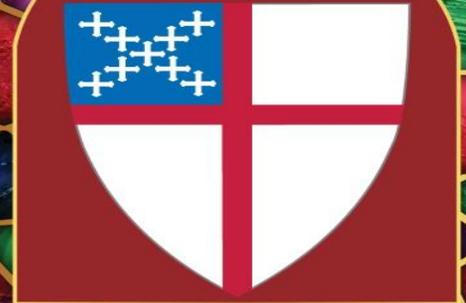
Pentecost

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SAINT PAUL



Saint Paul's
Episcopal
Church



Wesley Chapel

www.saintpaulsepiscopalchurch.org
813-803-7489

Welcome

Dr. Jeanette Rollins, Senior Warden

On behalf of the vicar of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of South West Florida we extend a warm welcome to all. This is our inaugural publishing of "*The Apostle*" a newsletter for the members and visitors of Saint Paul's in which we endeavor to keep our members connected, share God's word, and to continue our mission of growth and outreach to the community of Wesley Chapel and beyond.

An apostle is God's missionary messenger. Our patron saint, Saint Paul proselytized the significance of the risen Christ, which is the tenet of our faith, for we shall not perish, but have life everlasting with God's grace and mercy. How relevant is this message with the alignment of the observance our first Holy Week and welcoming and celebrating the Eastertide officially as *Saint Paul's Episcopal Church!*

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A Message from the Vicar



MOTHER ADRIENNE HYMES, VICAR

Dear People of Saint Paul's,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. After navigating the challenges of the pandemic for 15 months, we are experiencing signs of hope for the reclamation of normalcy within our faith community and our broader Episcopal Church. I am grateful to God for His divine protection of our faith community, and for pouring upon us His blessings during this shared human experience.

As I reflect upon those months, we have much for which to be grateful and to celebrate. Unable to gather since March 2020, we gathered with masks and safely distanced seating, for our first Mass on June 28, 2020. From September to the present, we changed our name to St. Paul's; celebrated our first patronal feast day,

welcomed the bishop for the dedication of the church with a ribbon cutting, confirmations, and the commissioning of this church's first-ever Bishop's Committee; baptized three souls into the body of Christ; and continue to welcome visitors each Sunday. We also embraced livestream technology, an invaluable instrument of evangelism, which reaches souls across the country, and invites seekers of a spiritual home, right here in our community, to "come and see."

Over the next few months, there will be opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation, as well as precious fellowship time with one another. The Bishop's Committee and I invite you to prayerfully discern how God may be calling you to actively serve in the ongoing planting and nurturing of this still very new faith community. If you consider St. Paul's your spiritual home and have not yet taken the steps to become a member, please make it official, * and become involved in the growth of the church and the broadening of its ministries. The long-term vitality of this church depends on members who are rooted in Christ and grounded in our St. Paul's faith community by their formal commitment of time, talent, and treasure.

My deep gratitude to God inherently includes my gratitude for your faithfulness in following our Lord; for your commitment in serving our Lord; and for your trust in me to lead us forward into the ever-unfolding vision that God continues to reveal to us. Our patron saint, the apostle Paul, was a church planter and a church nurturer. Let us with great courage, expectation and joy continue in the footsteps of St. Paul as church planters and church nurturers. And may we be ever-mindful that our kingdom-building work is just beginning, and that, by the grace of God, we are still planting.

Faithfully,

Mother Adrienne+

***confirmation/reception; membership transfer form from another Episcopal Church; letter of intent for those unaffiliated with the Episcopal Church; submission of pledge form**

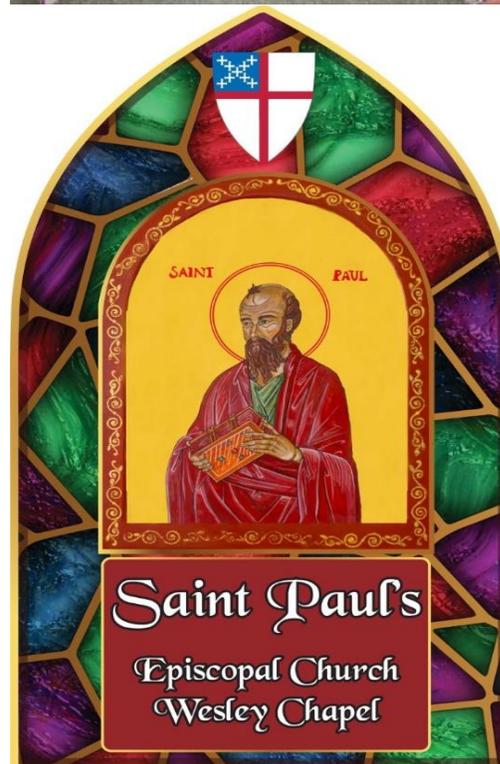
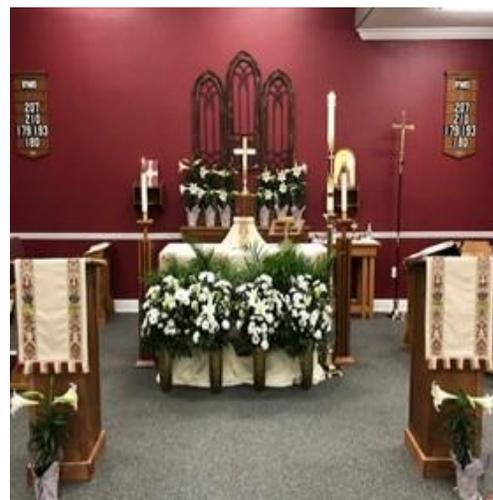
Saint Paul's Celebrates Its First Holy Week

The Reverend, Mother Adrienne Hymes led us in our first solemn tradition in the commemoration of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Palm Sunday began with the blessing distribution of the palms which preceded an incensed infused, and palm-waving processional that invoked Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Mother Hymes continued the rites of Holy Week with Maundy Thursday service which was held on April 1st at 7 P.M. This service, however, did not include the ritual washing of the feet due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, and the requirement to observe social-distancing guidance.

The solemn service held on Good Friday, April 2nd marked the second day of the Paschal Triduum, and the final day of lent. It is this day that the sacrifice of Jesus makes our salvation Possible.

And finally, Easter Sunday, the day in which we all rejoice and celebrate the risen Christ was celebrated on April 4th. Hallelujah! He is risen indeed!





The Importance of Your Pledge

Senior Warden, Dr. J. Rollins

As we are a newly planted church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church relies heavily upon the diocese to meet our financial obligations. Church operational costs are numerous and requires the commitment of many to fulfill the annual financial obligations. Therefore, your pledge is valued and appreciated, as it allows us to meet the spiritual needs of those who are served by our church.

Please complete your pledge cards and include them in a sealed envelope when turning them in. Pledge cards are kept confidential and are only viewed by the church's bookkeeper. Recall that your pledge is your commitment and your contribution to the financial health of the church. Your pledge is used to project our annual operational funds and deficits. It is your generosity that equips our sustainability and mission.

Thank you!

Contact Sr. Warden: fjeanette@msn.com

Contact Church Office: office@saintpaulsepiscopalchurch.org

St. Paul's Featured in the "Southern Cross"

Rev. Adrienne Hymes

Ever wonder how the mission of the Church manifests in an actual church, newly planted in Wesley Chapel? Well. This article does a great job painting the picture and connecting the dots.

Written by Garland Pollard, "A Home for St. Paul's," is a comprehensive feature in our diocesan publication, "Southern Cross." The piece features the inspirational journey of our church plant from vision to mission! We are only just beginning. We are deeply grateful to God for His provision of a committed Bishop and diocese, abundant resources, mentors, missionaries, sister church support, community partners and unceasing prayers across the diocese and beyond. Read all about this incredible journey here:

https://issuu.com/episcopalflorida/docs/2021_easter_southern_cross_online_version?fbclid=IwAR2TtB5FSINz1bCLPqvMQvEAVg31HIRXYK7kFT7ocHTHykf-DMfl1KR7ggE

Ministry Spotlight: The Gifts of Invitation & Welcome!

The Apostle

Welcome

Ms. Karen Bauer, Welcome Team Chair

To be welcomed is glad to be received and greeted with pleasure. As chair of the welcome team, I hope that all who visit, and all who return, feel welcomed home each time they visit St. Paul's. We answer questions and direct people to others who may be able to assist with specific inquiries. Newcomers receive welcome bags, an information card upon entering our church, and are mailed handwritten "thank you for visiting" notes from the vicar and myself. If you have visited St. Paul's, and not received a note from me, please let me know so that I may correct that oversight!

I take the act of being Christ's hands and heart in the world seriously, and it is my deep joy to serve on the Welcome Team. It makes me smile, and I feel like I am walking on sunshine! Welcoming the stranger, whom we pray will become a part of our St. Paul's family, is my gift of love, and it is a genuine gift of love given by this faith community.

If you are interested in serving as a Welcome Team minister, let us chat! Email me at: PUMBABAUER@aol.com

Come & Worship. Come & Serve. Come & Feel the Spirit



Pentecost Sunday with Three Baptisms May 23, 2021



Baptismal images courtesy of Steve Vinik



Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
In-Person and Online
Select "Livestream" on the Website

www.saintpaulsepiscopalchurch.org

ADDRESS

3836 Flatiron Loop Ste 101
Wesley Chapel, Florida 33544

PHONE:

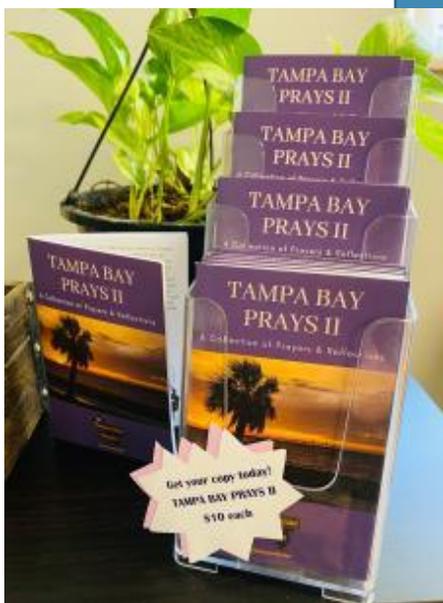
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Spiritual Resources:

Tampa Bay Prays II, Features Mother Hymes' Reflection



The Franciscan Center (Tampa) has compiled a prayer booklet, Tampa Bay Prays II, with over 50 prayers for your use in your conversations with God. It includes our own Mother Hymes' reflection. All proceeds from the sale of the booklet go toward supporting the mission of the Franciscan Center for spiritual retreat and nourishment. The Franciscan sisters invite you to visit the center for the events and to explore taking a retreat there with housing and meals. The pocket-sized prayer booklet is available online for \$10.00 per book plus \$4.25 shipping (\$14.25 total). The \$4.25 shipping fee covers orders with multiple booklets as well. To purchase Tampa Bay Prays II online: Franciscan Center Retreats and Programs (etapestry.com). Books may also be purchased at the Franciscan Center M-F 9am – 5pm, 3010 N. Perry Ave. Tampa. Or by calling the Center at 813-229- 2695.

