Thank you for being brave

My Dear People,

Five years ago, St. Paul’s Church did something brave. Brave and creative. The kind of thing that would make me want to join this church if I weren't already one of you.

We said: of the 80,000 people who work in downtown RVA, and of the 35,000 who live in downtown RVA, many of those women and men and their families do not have a community of faith and...we could be that community of faith for them.

And so we took a step out, and we said, let’s renew our investment in reaching folks living and working in downtown whom we might otherwise not get to know. And so we created something new, a Downtown Missioner, a priest to help us reach out and open doors and build new relationships, inviting others to share in what we have found together as a community in Christ in downtown Richmond, Virginia. And so we found an exceptional person, the Rev. Melanie Mullen, to come serve with us as our first Downtown Missioner, to come and discover with us what Downtown Mission could be in our day, in this city we love.

And so we were blessed to have Melanie in our midst, as one of us, for over four years: preaching and presiding, and praying with us. Sharing stories. Smiling and laughing. Asking questions, listening, and speaking truth. Dreaming up for us a new way of worshiping, our Center service. Leading us down the city's sidewalks, smudging the sign of the Cross on the foreheads of strangers. Going with us to PrideFest to be present as a sign of God’s fiercely inclusive love. Showing up with her at interfaith “Standing Together” gatherings, to stand up for our neighbors, especially those who feel unwelcome. Joining her and hundreds of our fellow Richmonders on Monument Avenue, celebrating the dignity and rights of every human being. Boarding a northbound train with her, to be among an ocean of others in the streets of our nation's capitol, in the name of justice. Welcoming the stranger with her, the stranger who then becomes one of us, who decides that this is his or her community of faith, that he or she has found a spiritual home.

This past Mardi Gras Sunday, Nick Courtney, who came to us through Downtown Mission, was confirmed here at St. Paul’s by Bishop Ted Gulick in a Spirit-filled, joyous service I’ll never forget. And, as I looked into the eyes of Nick’s parents afterward in Scott Hall, in the midst of all the exuberance of the pancake brunch, I said, “We love your son. Nick is a joy to us.” And they smiled back, and we celebrated.

I say again, if I wasn’t already one of you, I would want to become one of you. And I am so excited to see where the Spirit God leads us as together we continue to discover what Downtown Mission can be in the heart of our city. As Pope Francis has said, “Ask Jesus what he wants from you, and be brave.”

St. Paul’s, thank you for being brave.

Your brother in Christ,
Update from the History and Reconciliation Initiative

Linda Armstrong
Parishioner and HRI Committee Chair

I do not get enough questions about HRI but below are the two most Frequently Asked Questions:

1. “What is HRI?”
   Our mission: In light of our Christian faith, we will trace and acknowledge the racial history of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in order to repair, restore, and seek reconciliation with God, each other, and the broader community.

2. “What are you guys doing? What are you planning?”
   We’ve been busy! Our Steering Committee, comprised of our clergy, Barbara Holley, Rob Corcoran, Pam James, Michelle Walker, Ben Campbell, and Christopher Graham, meets once a month to plan and organize our schedule, review our resources, and stay focused on our journey toward reconciliation.

Prayerful Conversations are our means of communicating with St Paul’s members. Our last Prayerful Conversation was September 25th. About 50 parishioners enjoyed a potluck dinner, a presentation by Dick Ritsch from the Faith in Action Committee, and remarks from Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, one of our lead historians. Small group conversations were facilitated defining the term RECONCILIATION. The group decision? RECONCILIATION is restoration of relationships and forgiveness.

Our next Prayerful Conversation is April 23rd. We plan to screen the movie, “Traces of the Trade,” and have invited the producer of the movie, Katrina Browne, to discuss the making of the movie and the story of the Browne family of Rhode Island, researching their family history and discovering the family wealth was produced from the trade of slaves. We will enjoy a potluck dinner as a community before the movie and discussion. We plan to host at least two more Prayerful Conversations through the 2017-2018 year, learning from others and St. Paul’s members.

Working Groups
The History Working Group of over 23 volunteer researchers has been hard at work, looking at Vestry minutes, reading the Southern Churchman (The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia Newspaper from 1835 to 1952) looking for names of parishioners and enslaved people listed in the US Census. Dr. Christopher Graham has provided exceptional guidance for the History Working Group. He and parishioner Beth O’Leary, have been able to assist, direct, and manage many primary resources for the investigation of our past. Look for a research summary covering 1845 to 1905 in early summer! The findings of the History Working Group will inform the focus of the Music/Liturgy and Memorials Working Groups.

Our Oral History Working Group is beginning its work. We have discovered a large number of cassette tapes with recorded conversations between members of St. Paul’s in 1981. Geoff Switz graciously transferred the information to CDs and now the work of listening has begun. The researchers will begin interviewing parishioners who reside at Westminster-Canterbury. Recording memories of long time members of our church is an exciting prospect!

The Memorials Working Group meets every two weeks, making plans for a historical display within the church and a portable educational display that can travel to other churches and organizations helping us tell the story...
This Lent, be reconciled

Reconciliation is a godly act, whenever and wherever it is done. It is an invitation to a deeper and more meaningful existence, on whatever plane, but reconciliation at its most influential is visible and life changing. In Lent, we once again move into a season of reconciliation, with God and one another. And we do so knowing that whatever is keeping us from God can be reconciled. “Nothing can separate us from the love of God,” St. Paul reminds us.

Once my daughter got so angry when I said no over something trivial (to me). She looked at me, shaking with anger, and blurted out, “You make me so angry, I hate you!” She then proceeded to burst out in tears, and crawled into my lap for a good cry. Even though, I “made her so angry” and that she “hated me,” she knew that nothing she said or did could keep her from my love, and even in that heated moment, she knew she would have a place of safety, acceptance, and reconciliation. Nothing she could say or do would keep me from loving her. In our Lenten disciplines, we are reminded of those things that we impose on ourselves, hopefully removing them or replacing them with better things. But in the end we know, that God’s love and redeeming Grace will welcome us home, even in our failures.

We also have the task of being reconciled with one another and helping others be reconciled with God. This is the great task of the Church, to live out the grace we have received, and model it in our jaded and hurting world. This Lent, may we not just say, “Be Reconciled,” but be at work to find ways to make it real, both seen and felt, in our lives and work. Blessings on your journey!

History and Reconciliation Initiative (continued)

of our work of reconciliation. Many exciting ideas are being explored on how best to visually tell this story.

Future plans and events
We have invited about 20 clergy and parishioners from neighboring churches to have supper with the Steering Committee and our clergy. Our goal is to get access to the history of and the anecdotal stories from traditionally African American churches.

The office of the Most. Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church has contacted St. Paul’s about our work and plans a visit to St. Paul’s in early 2018.

We plan to have Dr. Ed Ayers, Dr. Newby-Alexander and other historians give a symposium open to the public on The History of Richmond Religious Groups and the influence of those institutions on our city.

Interest spreads past our doorsteps:
Sojourners magazine, a monthly publication on progressive Christian social justice, visited St. Paul’s on January 29, interviewing dozens of HRI volunteers and filmed our 9 am Service. The article should appear in their April 2017 issue, so be on the lookout.

The Episcopal News Service will be interviewing St. Paul’s HRI people for an upcoming story. We look forward to reading and seeing their perspective on St. Paul’s work.

The work of the History and Reconciliation Initiative is time consuming (we are blessed with energetic volunteers) and exciting. Ideas keep popping. Do you have some ideas? Come join us!
Emmas: Client Highlight

I’d like to share a story about an Emmaus Transformation Grant client; Ms. J came to St. Paul’s in need of assistance with her rent. She is an elderly woman who was struggling to maintain her rent, due the cost of housing. She had moved into this particular adult apartment because she felt that they would be able to help her address her needs.

What happened with Ms. J’s story was that the complex was not treating the adults well and the rent itself was taking a significant toll on her financially. One of the goals we came up with was for her to move into a cheaper housing situation where the facilities were better suited for adults. She was able to maintain herself after we were able to assist her.

Recently, Ms. J called us to let us know that she had finally been able to find a new housing situation. She had found a place that was income based, and focused on working with elderly individuals.

She called us to thank us for helping her out almost a year ago with her rent. She stated that without our help, she wouldn’t have even had the opportunity to get to where she is now. Her smile was palpable over the phone line. Clients like Ms. J are some of our most amazing success stories. She stated that when she finally found better housing and fully moved in, the first person she wanted to call and celebrate the good news was with us.

Micah: Chess club at Woodville!

This year at Woodville, Frank Mountcastle and Lew Holley started up a boys chess club for our 4th and 5th grade students. Each week, Frank and Lew go to Woodville and play chess with a group of boys.

By playing chess the boys are able to use their strategy making skills and attempt to win by out-thinking their opponent. The group originally started off with three boys, but it grew in popularity. So much in fact that Tyler, Jonti’s student intern, started up another chess club for another group of students.

When asked what the most fun thing about chess club is, Lew said that the best part was seeking the kids play chess and watching them learn.

There are some moments when students try and make an illegal move, but that is when Frank and Lew have to make sure they are making the right moves. These boys are even teaching one another.

You don’t have to be an expert at chess to be a part of chess club, or to even run it. As long as you are happy and willing to learn, this club is for you.

If you are interested in chess club or any of the other wonderful opportunities at Woodville, please contact Hana Yun, hyun@stpaulsrva.org for more information.
St. Paul’s hosts Jazz Lunches in partnership with the Richmond Jazz Society. Local artists perform and lunch is catered by locally-owned restaurants.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 26 through May 24
Time: 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Cost: $10 for lunch and music
Register by each Monday
www.stpaulsrva.org/jazz or 804-643-3589

**SCHEDULE**

**APRIL 26:** Debo Dabney
Piano Jazz Standards
Lunch by Positive Vibe

**MAY 3:** Pieces of the Puzzle
Appomattox Governor’s School Band
Lunch by Boka Grill and Growlers

**MAY 10:** Lucy Kilpatrick
Piano Smooth Jazz
Lunch by Alamo BBQ

**MAY 17:** Narod Ensemble
Middle Eastern Soul Music
Lunch by Coriander

**MAY 24:** Doctors of Jazz
Swing & Traditional Dixieland Jazz
Lunch by Cafe Rustica

Special thanks to the Richmond Jazz Society, our media sponsor 88.9 WCVE, and our restaurant partners for making this series possible.
Spiritual Formation
Be Reconciled: Right Relationship in Community

When speaking the other day with the Rev. Gary Commins, this year’s Shrine Mont parish retreat facilitator, he commented, “we always want the other to be just like us.” This is a good starting point for considering what it means to reconcile, and opens a vast and probing inquiry into the nature of reconciliation: Who are “we”? Who is “the other”? What does it mean to be “just like us,” and why do we always seem to want people to conform to our own set of norms, behaviors, and identities?

This spring, we turn our gaze to community reconciliation. In the fall we examined the role of reconciliation in our personal relationships. In the winter we examined reconciliation with God. Now, with spring nearly upon us we zoom out to explore reconciliation in a community context, focusing on what right relationship looks like between communities. This necessarily requires an understanding of our own identity as a community; our history, good and bad, our ministry, and our call as a Christian community. It also requires learning about other communities and other stories in Richmond and across the world.

Over the next three months we will again use Desmond Tutu’s fourfold path of forgiving to embark together on a path of reconciliation, this time focused on what reconciliation looks like, and where God desires it, between and within communities. Together we will examine who is our neighbor, who isn’t, and peel the layers back to reveal the truth about ourselves and our world, and Christ’s incessant yearning for reconciliation, justice, and peace.

Throughout the year we use words like “explore,” “examine,” “study,” and “go deeper,” to describe our interaction with the subject matter of our spiritual formation program. These words are insufficient, and keep us on an academic, exterior plane; they keep the material at arm’s length. When we chose the theme Be Reconciled, we did so not with the intention of simply learning new terms or frameworks to understand reconciliation, but to challenge ourselves to do the work of reconciliation. We want to walk the path of reconciliation together as a parish, and take risks, stumble, rise up again and continue the journey. This is our challenge and commitment to you this spring: join us Sunday mornings and take some soul food, let it nourish you, and together we will be able to prepare the way of our ever-reconciling Lord.

Calendar:

March 18 | Saturday Workshop: Exile to Embrace: Having Difficult Conversations Without Getting Indigestion. Dr. Carl Stauffer returns to help us practice the work of reconciliation through story and interactive modules on reconciliation and transforming historical harms.

March 19 | Forum Sunday: Dr. Stauffer uses a biblical basis for reconciliation and offers key learnings and practices from his decades of experience working with restorative justice organizations, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

March 26: Naming the Hurt: Where is our larger community in Richmond not in right relationship? What are causes of systemic inequality, effects of power and privilege, and what works and doesn’t in addressing these issues?

April 23: Asking Forgiveness: Starting Fresh in Right Relationship. What can we learn from those we serve or disagree with? What is true service and what is self-righteous service? What are best practices in outreach and service?
Youth

Our youth and parents put on a fantastic Winter Ball and mini-auction on February 18! We netted $3,700, and had a blast doing it.

*Said one guest who does not (yet) attend St. Paul’s, “This dance party is making me rethink everything I thought I knew about church.”*

Huge thank yous are in order for all who participated, especially Laura Carr and Jennine Sherrill, who organized the auction; Mary Ball, who made all the decorations and design possible; Anne Hayes and Marshall Martin, who ran the registration and accounting; Kristi, Greg, and Libby Mullins, who not only baked all the desserts, but ran the kitchen; Nick Courtney, Kim Ligon, and Laura Peterson, who ran the games and raffle; Joe James and his sons, who bartended; Sam Jackson, who masterfully emceed the event; Gail Goldsmith, who designed great tickets and marketing; Monica Gittings, who ran the clean-up crew; and of course our wonderful youth, who did everything before, during, and after to make it a success! Thank you all so much!!!

St. Paul’s has generously sponsored 50% of all tuition for anyone who attends a Shrine Mont summer camp. There are many different camps, so all are strongly encouraged to check out the Shrine Mont Camps website, www.shrinemontcamps.net, to find one that fits your child! Shrine Mont Camps are the absolute most formative thing our youth can engage in, so I hope to see everyone up on the mountain this year!

The Saturday Sisters program continues to be well-run by our young ladies in the high school group. They recently used the money earned through the Christmas card sale to take the Woodville elementary girls out to a local book store to purchase their very own books!

Calendar:

March 12: Morning youth group; Middle School hangout 4-6 p.m.
March 19: 1:15-2:30 p.m.: Escape Room! (No morning youth group)
March 26: Morning youth group
April 2: Morning youth group
April 8: Youth trip to DC to see the cherry blossoms
April 9, 16: No youth group (Palm Sunday and Easter)
April 21-23: 6th and 7th grade PYM Weekend at Shrine Mont
April 23: High school youth group serves at Liberation Veterans Services, 4-7 p.m. (no morning youth group)
April 30: Morning youth group
Godly Play

The Godly Play curriculum, developed by Jerome Berryman, engages what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting us into—and pursuing us in the midst of—Scripture and spiritual experience. Godly Play practice teaches us to listen for God and to make authentic and creative responses to God’s call in our lives.

- Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance.
- Godly Play has a Montessori foundation with 40+ years of research and practice.
- Godly Play values process, openness, discovery, community, and relationships.
- Godly Play models the worship life, stories, symbols, and rituals of Christian congregations.
- Godly Play allows practitioners to make relevant and personal theological meaning.
- Godly Play nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play.

If you have a child age 3 years old through 5th grade, join us at 10:10 a.m.—and grown ups are invited into our circle as well!

I recently asked our children for some Easter memories...

Last year we had an Easter egg hunt inside because it was raining. There were about 1000 eggs. They let everybody go at the same time so it would be fair. There was chocolate in some of the eggs. Today, we still find eggs around the church (Hunter Johnston)

3 years ago at my old church we had an Easter egg hunt. The eggs were numbered and they gave us numbers. My number was 9. There were 10 eggs for everybody. There was so much candy! (Ella Etters)

3 years ago I went to Duck and had an Easter egg hunt on the beach. I got a lot of candy. (Malcolm Hess)

I went to my Nana and Papa’s house and found eggs at church! (Georgia Hess)

On one of my Easters, my Dad was waking me up for church. In a loud enough voice to wake me up, he said “Jesus Christ has risen today!” I muttered “that doesn’t mean I have to rise today.” The next Easter right before the egg hunt, I hit my head on concrete and had to go to the ER room – no emergency. I am one of the kids who gets plenty of candy. (Leo Coogan)
I came to St. Paul’s in January of 1992 as the new assistant organist/choir director. Little did I know what was in store for me!

I came from a background in the Catholic Church, and was a church musician since my college days. I was looking for a change and a challenge. (“What is Anglican chant?” I asked!) I found both, musically and socially, at St. Paul’s in the choir, where I met my wonderful husband, Gene, and where I have made and continue to make new friends and colleagues every year.

Gene and I joined the church in 1996, shortly before we were married by the Rev. Bob Hetherington in the St. Paul’s atrium at Christmas time--and the choir sang beautifully for our wedding!

I am constantly reminded every week what a truly gifted group of people we have in the music ministry. I have remained at St. Paul’s for just over 25 years, and Gene for 35 years, because it is a joy to rehearse, socialize and make music every week with this diverse, funny, talented, and loving group of people.

I feel very blessed to be a part of the music ministry at St. Paul’s and to work closely with our kind and talented director, Christopher Reynolds.

Interested in joining the choir? Contact Christopher Reynolds at creynolds@stpaulsrva.org

Karen Harris conducting the choir on a Sunday morning. Photo credit: Gail Goldsmith
Holy Week at St. Paul’s

Holy Monday, April 10
7:00 p.m. Superspell, Church
(a mashup of Godspell and Jesus Christ Superstar)

Holy Tuesday, April 11
7:00 p.m. Simple Eucharist with cello, Church

Holy Wednesday, April 12
6:00 p.m. Center, Church
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae, a service of psalms, Atrium

Maundy Thursday, April 13
6:00 p.m. Agape Supper, Scott Hall
Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar, Church

Good Friday, April 14
12 to 3 p.m., Meditations on the Passion with prayer stations, Church
7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday, Church

Holy Saturday, April 15
8:00 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter, Memorial Garden

Easter Day, April 16
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, Church
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Church
10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, Capitol Square
11:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Church

All are invited to a community reception following the 9 & 11:15 a.m. services!
LECTIONARY READINGS

March 12, 2017 – The Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 19, 2017 – The Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 26, 2017 – The Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

April 2, 2017 – The Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

April 9, 2017 – Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
The Liturgy of the Palms
Matthew 21:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

April 9, 2017 – Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
The Liturgy of the Word
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

April 16, 2017 – Easter
9 a.m Readings
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
John 20:1-18

11 a.m Readings
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18

April 23, 2017 – The Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 30, 2017 – The Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17
1 Peter 1:17-23

Celebrations at St. Paul’s

We rejoice with all who are celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary, or other milestone during the months of March and April! If you would like a list of birthdays and anniversaries for March and April please contact Kathy Coleman at kcoleman@stpaulsrva.org or call the office at 804-643-3589. Hard copies are also available in the office.

Parish Register for March & April

Marriages:
Erica Mitchell & Richard Zhang

New Members Joined:
Bobby Riddle
Rebecca Disney from Cornerstone Assembly of God, N. Chesterfield, VA
Deborah Truscott
Michael Nunnally from St. James Episcopal Church, Leesburg, VA

Transfers Out
Mary Eberline to St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Rochester, MI
Angela Constantion to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA
Carol McCoy to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA
Denise Thomas Brown to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA
Marcel Minor III to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA
CLERGY
The Rev. Wallace Adams-Riley, Rector
The Rev. Molly Bosscher, Associate Rector
The Rev. Rock Higgins, Interim Downtown Missioner
The Rev. Ben Campbell, Pastoral Associate

STAFF
Betsy Carr, Director of Outreach
Jason Cherry, Sexton
Kathy Coleman, Administrative Assistant
Michael Dabney, Sexton
Gail Goldsmith, Director of Communications
Mernard Green, Sexton
Karen Harris, Assistant Director of Music
Aliesha Hart, Financial Administrator
Carter Johann, Administrative Assistant
Pete Nunnally, Director of Adult Formation & Youth Ministries
Linda Pitts, Facilities Manager
Dr. Christopher Reynolds, Director of Music & Organist
Ulrike Robinson, Kitchen Supervisor
Jonti Simmons, Social Worker at Woodville
Linda Willis, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Rich Wolkiewicz, Director of Administration & Finance

VESTRY
Class of 2018
Linda Armstrong
Philip Brooks
Lewis Holley
Philip Huss
Joyce Smith, Senior Warden

Class of 2019
Tim Baird
Jane Nelson
Edie Patterson
Deb Love Yoder

Class of 2020
Jeannie LeFever
Lee Switz
Michelle Walker
Emily Wingfield