

# The Window



**ST. PAUL**  
United Methodist Church

525 Beech Street  
Abilene, Texas 79601  
325-672-7814

"Send out Thy truth and Thy light; let them lead us." --Psalm 43:4a

February 1, 2018

## God's Love Does --- A True Love Story

How do you spell love?? Hamburger... Yes, H A M B U R G E R - a greasy, non-descript, flat, bland tasting, grill tossed - after steaming hamburger from the Valparaiso University (Valpo) Student Union Center. Let me back up just a bit. In 1978, I packed up two large suitcases and left everything and everyone I knew in Buffalo, NY for a very good, small private Lutheran university over 1000 miles away. I was to become one of 23 African American students on a campus of over 1500. My first year, I would study hard and yet still make C's instead of the A's I had been used to in high school. After my second semester at Valpo in Engineering, I was summoned into the "advisors" office to talk about whether or not I was a good fit for engineering. I had come to Valpo on an Engineering scholarship so if I was not a good fit for Engineering then, in my mind - I was not a good fit for college at all.

Sadden by this revelation, I left the advisors office stunned feeling hopeless and lost. For some reason, I wandered into the student union building. As I walked around looking for a friendly face, I literally bumped into Dr. Lou Jean Walton. Dr. Lou Jean "Boots" Walton was the Chair of the Social Work department and to my knowledge, the only African American faculty person full time on campus. I'm not sure if she found me or if I found her. All I know is - I was down, struggling mentally, trying to figure out what I was going to do to stay in school - Dr. Lou Jean Walton saw me and did something. She acted quickly and boldly. That afternoon she changed my life and she showed me the love of Christ like never before. She put a form of His agape love into swift action. First, she took me down to the snack bar and bought me the aforementioned burger. Then, she encouraged me strongly not to quit school. Dr. Walton asked me if I had any faith and I said I did. Then she reminded me to keep on praying and to remember that God was with me right here at Valpo. She told me not to ever forget that God did not bring me all the way here to fail. And that He promised in his Word, that He would supply all of my needs. She sounded just like a preacher, but she wasn't. She was much more. That day she felt like an angel. She sat with me for what seemed like an eternity; even though (I would later find out) she had a faculty meeting and children waiting to be picked up 30 miles away. Finally, she gave me a big long hug, her phone number and five dollars.

Why this story? Because, this is one of my best true God stories ever. It is a story about what happens when you "love your neighbor as yourself." Almost, forty years later and we are still friends. This encounter and many that followed, taught me that God takes time to see us and we must take time in love to see others. It showed me the real agape love of Christ. A love that is deep and wide and long. A love that always involves time, sacrifice and being present. I learned that day that God's love does. It does. It always does something for someone else.

So this Valentine's Day, don't be on the lookout - to get. Try some agape love and be on the spy - to give.

Much Love and Blessings!!!!

*Felicia*

## Wednesday Night Meal / Program

Our Wednesday night meal and program for February will be Wednesday, February 7 with the meal beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the program beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Wesley Friendship Hall.

Join us as our very own McMurry University student, Martin Mercado will speak to us about his Summer trip to Columbia where he taught English to school children. The meal will be provided by Hayley Jo on the Go. Cost \$7.00 per person and \$24.00 for a family of 4 or more.

We also offer a Wednesday night Service of Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel each Wednesday night.



## The Season of Lent Begins This Month

The Season of Lent begins this month on Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, marks the beginning of a period of reflection and penance. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ.

We will begin with Shrove Tuesday (*also known as Shrovetide Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday, or Fat Tuesday*), the day preceding Ash Wednesday with a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. We will have pancakes, bacon, juice & coffee.



# Letter from UMC Council of Bishops

As a Pastor in the United Methodist Church, I am called to respond to issues of social justice. Last month, President Donald Trump allegedly made some disparaging comments about immigrants in the United States. I have attached the response from the Council of Bishops for largest dissemination. I want you to know that I wholeheartedly support the comments and sentiment of the Bishop's letter.



United Methodist bishops condemn President Trump's "offensive" remarks against immigrants. The statement follows:

January 12, 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, issued a statement today on behalf of the Council concerning remarks reported to have been made by President Donald Trump regarding immigrants. The statement follows:

We are appalled by the offensive, disgusting words attributed to President Donald Trump who is said to have referred to immigrants from African countries and Haiti, and the countries themselves, in an insulting and derogative manner. According to various media accounts, President Trump made the remarks during a White House discussion with lawmakers on immigration.

As reported, President Trump's words are not only offensive and harmful, they are racist.

We call upon all Christians, especially United Methodists, to condemn this characterization and further call for President Trump to apologize.

As United Methodists, we cherish our brothers and sisters from all parts of the world and we believe that God loves all creation regardless of where they live or where they come from. As leaders of our global United Methodist Church, we are sickened by such uncouth language from the leader of a nation that was founded by immigrants and serves as a beacon to the world's "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Thousands of our clergy, laity and other highly skilled, productive citizens are from places President Trump has defamed with his comments. The fact that he also insists the United States should consider more immigrants from Europe and Asia demonstrates the racist character of his comments. This is a direct contradiction of God's love for all people. Further, these comments on the eve of celebrating Martin Luther King Day belies Dr. King's witness and the United States' ongoing battle against racism.

We just celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, whose parents during his infancy, had to flee to Africa to escape from the wrath of King Herod. Millions of immigrants across the globe are running away from such despicable and life-threatening events. Hence, we have the Christian duty to be supportive of them as they flee political, cultural and social dangers in their native homes.

We will not stand by and allow our brothers and sisters to be maligned in such a crude manner. We call on all United Methodists, all people of faith, and the political leadership of the United States to speak up and speak against such demeaning and racist comments.

Christ reminds us that it is by love that they will know that we are Christians. Let's demonstrate that love for all of God's people by saying no to racism; no to discrimination and no to bigotry.

*Bishop Bruce R. Ough*  
President – Council of Bishops

Peace, *Felicia*



## YOUTH NEWS

Happy New Year! This January as a youth group we spent time serving at Love and Care Ministries, worshipping together, spending time studying God's word and learning what it means to have hearts fully invested in God during our High School / Middle School Winter Retreat. We even had some time to play some group games and paintball as well!!

This February we will be selling Soup as a youth fundraiser after each service on Superbowl Sunday, February 4 and have a Superbowl party that afternoon. February 9-10, we will be attending the Citywide Youth Conference, where over 300 students from all over Abilene come together to worship as one.

For more information, please contact Katie French at [Kfrench@stpaulabilene.org](mailto:Kfrench@stpaulabilene.org) or (325)-672-7814.



## COLLEGE NEWS

Our college group are meeting Monday nights at 7:00 pm for dinner, fellowship and to study the book of Matthew. All college and college age students are welcome.

Please contact Katie French at [Kfrench@stpaulabilene.org](mailto:Kfrench@stpaulabilene.org) or (325)-672-7814 with any questions.



# Activities at a Glance...

## Thursday, February 1

12:00 pm Staff Book Study

## Sunday, February 4

8:30 am Worship Service  
 9:30 am Soup-er Bowl Fundraiser  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 12:00 pm Soup-er Bowl Fundraiser  
 1:30 pm Wesley Court Communion  
 5:30 pm Youth Superbowl Party

## Monday, February 5

5:15 pm Chancel Ringers  
 7:00 pm College Group  
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 3

## Tuesday, February 6

8:30 am Staff @Food Pantry  
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting  
 4:00 pm St. Paul @Food Pantry  
 6:00 pm Grief Support Group

## Wednesday, February 7

10:00 am Prayer Team  
 3:15 pm The Jungle @Johnston  
 5:15 pm Finance Committee  
 5:30 pm Holy Communion Service  
 5:30 pm Fellowship Meal  
 6:00 pm Martin Mercado Program  
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, February 8

12:00 pm Staff Book Study

## Sunday, February 11

8:30 am Worship Service  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 5:30 pm Youth

## Monday, February 12

9:30 am United Methodist Women  
 5:15 pm Chancel Ringers  
 7:00 pm College Group  
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 3

## Tuesday, February 13

1:00 pm Staff Meeting  
 5:30 pm Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

## Wednesday, February 14

7:00 am UMM Breakfast  
 10:00 am Prayer Team  
 3:15 pm The Jungle @Johnston  
 5:30 pm Holy Communion Service  
 5:30 pm Fellowship Meal  
 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Svc.  
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, February 15

12:00 pm Staff Book Study  
 5:00 pm Board of Trustees

## Sunday, February 18

### Boy/Girl Scout Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 5:30 pm Youth

## Monday, February 19

### President's Day - Office Closed

5:15 pm Chancel Ringers  
 7:00 pm College Group  
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 3

## Tuesday, February 20

9:00 am Caring Hearts Visitation  
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting  
 6:00 pm Grief Support Group

## Wednesday, February 21

10:00 am Prayer Team  
 3:15 pm The Jungle @Johnston Elem.  
 5:30 pm Holy Communion Service  
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, February 22

12:00 pm Staff Book Study

## Sunday, February 25

8:30 am Worship Service  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 5:30 pm Youth

## Monday, February 26

5:15 pm Chancel Ringers  
 7:00 pm College Group  
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 3

## Tuesday, February 27

1:00 pm Staff Meeting  
 6:00 pm Grief Support Group

## Wednesday, February 28

10:00 am Prayer Team  
 3:15 pm The Jungle @Johnston Elem.  
 5:30 pm Holy Communion Service  
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018

9:30 A.M. IN ROOM 111

*Program: Dr. Dorothy Barnes*  
 Living As a Covenant Community

**United Methodist Men**  
**Breakfast**

Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
 7:00 a.m. @ The Flipping Egg  
 (4150 So. Danville)  
 Each person will order from the menu.



*Program:*  
 City Councilman,  
 Weldon Hurt



## Volunteer at the Methodist Food Pantry

Help fill sacks of groceries for those in need.

1st Tuesday of each month  
4:00-6:00 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm

2626 North First Street



## Teachers Needed

Sunday mornings  
9:45 a.m.

Grades 1-3 class

Grades 4-5 class

We have the curriculum for you to follow.  
Volunteer to Co-teach or Substitute.

Call the church office to volunteer.  
325-672-7814



## Three Students from St. Paul U.M.C. Receive TUMCA Scholarship



Lauren Bridwell, Christian Brown and Martin Mercado of our congregation received a scholarship for this academic year from the Texas Methodist College Association. Lauren, Christian and Martin are all students at McMurry University. Because our congregation pays its TUMCA apportionment, it can be said that these scholarship funds have come from the home congregation.

TUMCA gathers apportioned funds from congregations across Texas and disburses these funds to Texas United Methodist colleges and universities. All the funds that are distributed

to McMurry University in Abilene, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Southwestern University in Georgetown, and Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth go for scholarships for students who live in Texas and whose home church is a United Methodist Church in Texas. None of the funds go to administration or for bricks and mortar. The emphasis is on the student.

Our TUMCA apportionment is bearing the fruit of education in a faith-forming environment - something that makes a difference in a life and for a lifetime.

College students pictured above with Felicia, (from left): **Christian Brown**, Liam McDonald, **Lauren Bridwell**, Felicia Hopkins and **Martin Mercado**.

# Birthdays!

## February 1

Angie Haney  
Pat McRoy

## February 2

Hank Duncan  
Susan King  
Laura Ann Weber  
Belinda Slice

## February 3

Marly Gabriel  
Todd Rogers  
Judy Tate

## February 4

Jake Borchert  
Ann Bridwell  
Weeze Daniel  
Josh Hamaty

## February 7

Laura Terrell  
Tracy Terrell

## February 8

Terry Wolfer

## February 9

Melina Sterry

## February 10

Luis Rios  
Bonnie Miller

## February 12

Eli Terry  
Mark Marsh

## February 13

Hailey Signor  
Gary Yungblut

## February 16

Martha Faulkenberry

## February 18

Mary Frost  
Ralph McCleskey  
Robin Swartz

## February 19

Edward McRoy  
William Reilly  
Patty Rogers

## February 20

Pate Hughes  
Colin Kappel  
Maurice McLeod

## February 22

Chris Tesarski

## February 23

Val Armstrong  
Julia Barela  
Mark Ouimette

## February 26

Charlotte Fox

## February 27

Patricia Hartmann

## February 28

Grace Enlow  
Parker Fowlkes  
Tina Pyburn

## (February 29)

Pat Mouser

# Sympathy

**Hazel Lorraine Moody McLain**, *Holly Samuels' grandmother*, died Saturday, January 6, 2018. Services were Saturday, January 13, 2018 in Navasota, Texas.

**Clearease Pringle**, *Felicia Hopkins' aunt*, died Tuesday, January 9, 2018. Services were Wednesday, January 17, 2018 in Pleasantville, New Jersey.

**Liz Thomason**, *Holly & Jim Hays' sister in law*, died Thursday, December 21, 2017. Services will be in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Kenneth Mays**, *Sarah Chappell's husband*, died Tuesday, January 16, 2018. Services were Saturday, January 27, 2018.

**Janice Harkins** died Saturday, January 27, 2018. Services were Friday, February 2, 2018 at Hamil Family Funeral Home.

# Memorials and Gifts...

In Memory Of:

**Elsie Jones**

To Memorial Fund

*Jim Alvis*

*Bill & Maedene Armer*

*Charles & Becky Casey*

*Jim & Cheryl Holmes*

*K.O. & Marilyn Long*

*Tommye Ann Montgomery*

In Memory Of:

**Willie Lockett**

To Memorial Fund

*Liz Lockett*

In Memory Of:

**Carolyn Monk**

To Memorial Fund

*Jim & Glenda Alexander*

*Jim Alvis*

*Bill & Maedene Armer*

*Dick & Shotti Burton*

*Bob & Donna Carter*

*Charles & Becky Casey*

*Kyle & Nancy Etheredge*

*Vade Giles*

*Barry & Linda Hoefler*

*Jim & Cheryl Holmes*

*K.O. & Marilyn Long*

*Lynn Reeves*

*Mike & Anna Beth Waller*

To TV Fund

*Allen & Mary Wright*

*Grief Support Group*

**Tuesday Nights**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Office Conference Room**

*led by*

*Rev. Felicia Hopkins*



*In Our*

**PRAYERS**



**ST. PAUL**

United Methodist Church

525 Beech  
Abilene, TX 79601  
stpaulabilene.org

St. Paul United Methodist Family Thanks God For:

# Two ways to Celebrate Soup-er Bowl Sunday February 4, 2018



**Buy a bowl of soup (To-Go) for \$5.00/bowl.**  
Variety of soups prepared by the St. Paul Youth  
will be available in the Wesley Friendship Hall at 12:00 noon.

**Bring Cans of Chili (any kind) to benefit  
the Methodist Food Pantry.**

