



PREPARING THE
NEXT GENERATION
OF CHRISTIAN
LEADERS



Annual Report
2015-2016

Dear Saint Paul Friends,

Preparing the next generation of passionate, fruitful pastors and Christian leaders is a remarkable privilege and an awesome responsibility. When I think about the Kingdom implications of our task, I find inspiration in our mission, to prepare pastors, church leaders and those pursuing other Christian vocations.

Saint Paul is uniquely positioned in the Heartland and qualified to provide an extraordinary seminary experience for our students. Because of our collaborations with congregations and other institutions, our students have the opportunity to integrate knowledge learned in the classroom with the practical career. Saint Paul students benefit from a diverse, highly qualified faculty ready to teach and walk the journey with them.

Friends, it matters that Saint Paul remains focused on our main mission to prepare pastors and Christian leaders to manage effective change and growth in the church. To borrow and expand on a comment by Steve Keating, Lead Change Group, "Virtually every great accomplishment for Christ has at its core, solid leadership. When everything is going well, it is leadership that keeps us from getting complacent. When things are going poorly, it is leadership that calls us to action and inspires a new course, and it is leadership that reminds us of God's great provision and hope in Christ."

Developing human and financial resources, enrollment growth and maintaining academic excellence are three crucial factors for Saint Paul School of Theology's vitality. Thank you for your prayers, as they uphold us. Thank you for your steadfast financial gifts, as they encourage us and provide much needed funds for student scholarships and program excellence. Thank you for your student referrals, as our students give us the opportunity to do what we do best.



Please continue to partner with us as we remain faithful to our calling.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil B. Blair". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Rev. Neil B. Blair
President

Centered in Christ AND
ROOTED IN THE WESLEYAN
TRADITION, **SAINT PAUL**
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
IS A SEMINARY OF INTENTIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS **COMMITTED TO**
THE FORMATION OF PEOPLE
FOR INNOVATIVE,
creative ministry THROUGH
RIGOROUS ACADEMIC LIFE,
THE EXPLORATION OF **SCRIPTURE**,
TRADITION, MINISTRY PRACTICES,
AND *diverse*,
CONTEXTUAL EXPERIENCE

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This Annual Report contains a
 list of gifts received from
 July 1, 2015 to June 20, 2016.

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How to Leave a Legacy

The Saint Paul John Wesley Society was established to recognize donors, alums and friends who have made a commitment to the seminary through their will or estate plan, a trust, a gift annuity, a life insurance policy, or another deferred gift. Planned gifts leave a lasting legacy furthering the church and world.

Making a planned gift is a wonderful way to show your support for Saint Paul and its mission while achieving your own personal, financial, estate-planning, and philanthropic goals. With smart planning, you may actually increase the size of your estate and/or reduce the tax burden on your heirs.

To learn more:

Tracy Miller

tracy.miller@spst.edu

913-253-5085

www.spst.edu/legacy-giving



Leaving an Educational Legacy

Saint Paul Alumnus and Spouse Leave Largest John Wesley Society Gift to Date

This fall Saint Paul School of Theology received the largest singular bequest ever given to the seminary by an alumnus, Reverend Travis ('64) and wife, Mrs. Peggy Campbell, through the John Wesley Society. The couple were faithful supporters of the seminary through the years. When accepting the Saint Paul President's Award in 2006, Reverend Campbell shared how his Saint Paul experience enriched his life, saying, *"I was permitted to drink from wells that I did not dig and feast from trees that I did not plant. The members of the faculty led me into exploring the depths of history and development of thought about the faith that I never would have discovered."* He then said that they believed of all the institutions they could support; it would be Saint Paul that "will most likely be the institution that will foster the carrying on of the mission the Church with the most effect."

Reverend Travis Campbell received his Master of Divinity degree from Saint Paul School of Theology in 1964. He then moved to Fremont, California where he organized a new church start. Saint Paul Methodist Church began in the storefront of a shopping center and had 175 members upon Campbell's departure. He went on to serve a variety of parishes in California including Lemoore Methodist Church, Exeter United

Methodist Church, Park Presidio United Methodist Church, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Santa Cruz First United Methodist Church, Vallejo-Wayside United Methodist Church, and Ceres United Methodist Church before retiring from the California-Nevada Conference. He served in both inner-city and rural churches with his longest terms of service in San Francisco and Santa Cruz.

Reverend Campbell was a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and a native of Collins, Mississippi. Mrs. Campbell also grew up in Mississippi where she graduated from Mississippi State College for Women. They met at the library in Houma, Louisiana where Mrs. Campbell worked as a librarian. The couple became parents to two sons, George, 11, and Nickolas, 8, at the time. In their later years the Campbells resided in Fairfield, California until they went home to be with the Lord.

Saint Paul School of Theology will be eternally grateful for the faithful support the Campbells provided through their encouragement and contributions. Their gift will continue to make seminary education possible for men and women called to ministry in the church and world.

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Mr. Brian and Mrs. Linda Sisney

Reverend Jon C. Spalding '89

Mrs. Maurita E. Stueck

Ms. Kimberly Warren

Reverend Beverly L. '89 and Mr. James Wilkes Nu

Reverend Kelly S. Willoughby '85

OKLAHOMA : Rodenburg Leads Church During 125th Anniversary

Rev. Shannon Rodenberg, MDiv '13 takes a photo with a long-time congregation member during Fairland UMC's 125th Anniversary in Fairland, Oklahoma. She believes it is important to celebrate traditions and multiple generations of family as a rural church pastor.

"We celebrated the past, the work that God is doing right now, and dreamed of where God will take us in the future."

The congregation looked at new ways to welcome families and those with mobility concerns. "The celebration was an excellent way to propel the congregation forward in ministry to the community," Rodenberg said.



Celebrations and New Beginnings



KANSAS : Burton Achieves Academic Goal and Serves in Full-Time Ministry

Darryl Burton shared in jubilation with his wife when he obtained his seminary degree from Saint Paul in May. Burton spent 24 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. When released after being exonerated, in 2008, he mentioned having a lot of catching up to do—especially using technology. He shakes his head remembering that he had never used a cell phone or a computer. In seminary he had to work on a laptop daily to keep up with assignments. Through his tenacity, he went on to obtain his master of divinity degree. Burton now serves as an associate pastor in congregational care at Church of the Resurrection, encouraging others and sharing messages of Christ's redemption and hope.

"My role is just to be a humble servant"



FROM FOOTBALL TO THE PULPIT : Brown Prepares for God's Playing Field

Former Kansas City Chiefs Player, Colin Brown, has hung up his helmet to become a pastor. Brown is currently leading some of the worship pieces at the Blue Springs campus of Woods Chapel UMC and preaches on occasion. He's often wondered whether he gets more nervous before preaching or playing a big football game.

"Colin has a great future in the United Methodist Church," said Pastor Jeff Brinkman. "He is a big man with an even bigger heart."

SAINT PAUL BUILDERS

Gifts between \$250 and \$499

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Reverend Trevor D. Davis '80
Reverend R. Vergil and Mrs. Betty L. Eaton
Ms. Betty Ellis
Pastor Letha R. Essinger '92
Reverend Sally C. Fahrenthold '83
Pastor Roberta A. Fall '03

KIM PREPARES CONGREGATION FOR NEW GROWTH : Leadership for Church Renewal

When Rev. David Kim, MDiv '15, received his appointment at Central Korean United Methodist Church in 2013, his congregation was small. With a congregation of only sixteen members, Pastor Kim knew that church renewal was only possible with God.

Reverend Kim believed that it was not enough to be satisfied with the status quo. He assessed the needs of both the church and outside community, making multiple changes so that worship, prayer services, community meals, and social services matched them. The church now has 110 people in attendance.

“Church leadership is not easy,” said David Kim.

He prays daily for God's guidance as he works to bring about church renewal.





Caruso-Yahne Educates Volunteers to Serve with Kindness

Mandy Caruso-Yahne, MDiv '07, is proud to be serving as a deaconess in a cutting edge ministry. "Historically deaconesses are known to have served at the forefront of social justice issues," she said. Kansas City Community Kitchen, one of the largest hunger relief ministries in the area, introduced a Dining with Dignity model with a grand re-opening this past February. *"We wanted to turn the idea of a soup kitchen on its head,"* said Caruso-Yahne, Director of Community Engagement for Episcopal Community Services (ECS). She trains (pictured in the inset) and recruits volunteers to serve with kindness.

All guests are welcomed to the restaurant-style soup kitchen at 8th and Paseo, Kansas City, MO, by a host/hostess. Volunteer wait staff take orders and serve meals with a smile. There are no trays, no buffets, and no lines. "Our visitors get to choose from two entrees and several sides," said Caruso-Yahne. "It's important that they are able to make choices for themselves," she added. The meals are not your typical soup kitchen fare. An example of a freshly prepared lunch included roasted lamb with couscous, steamed broccoli, and fresh fruit.

Feeding those in need isn't the only way ECS is helping. They're training the unemployed, too. Classes teach food preparation, life/social skills and provide work experience. The goal is to get people jobs in the food industry at a living wage.

SAINT PAUL STEWARDS, CONTINUED

Gifts between \$100 and \$250

Reverend Karen '80 and Mr. David Fieser
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 Dr. David F. '76 and Mrs. Jane Knecht
 Reverend B. Joyce Kochersperger '88
 Reverend Cleo D. Kottwitz '69 and Ms. Judy Parsons
 Reverend Carol A. Kress '89
 Reverend Sheila M. '01 and Mr. Stanley C. Lawson
 Reverend John M. Lurvey, Jr. '67 and



PREPARING EFFECTIVE PREACHERS : Dr. Mike Graves Leads the Way

Saint Paul students from both campuses attended a session led by Dr. Mike Graves, McElvaney Professor of Preaching and Worship, at the Young Preachers Festival held at Church of the Resurrection. Dr. Graves reminds his students of the importance of a strong weekly message.

"Fred Craddock used to tell preachers, 'Remember, some of the congregation almost stayed home.' Occasionally on a Sunday when I'm not preaching I have sat in a coffee shop before heading to church myself and heard people debate whether to go. I've even hesitated myself more than once. There might be many factors, but according to the latest Pew Research, the number one thing people look for when choosing a church is preaching, an overwhelming 83%. Will the sermon be worth their effort?"

*"At Saint Paul,
forming ministers who
know how to preach well
is high on the list."*

DR. ANGELA SIMS, ACADEMIC DEAN :

"Teaching Christian Social Ethics affords me an opportunity to encourage students to think critically about the resources of their faith and religious traditions that may ultimately inform their responses to issues that are of importance to church and society."



Faculty Emeritus Dr. Tex Sample, Dr. Angela Sims, and benefactor Kathleen Rogers at the installation of Dr. Sims into the Robert B. and Kathleen Rogers Chair in Church and Society.



Dr. Hal Knight visits with Saint Paul alumni at the Iowa Annual Conference.

DR. HAL KNIGHT, PROFESSOR OF

WESLEYAN STUDIES : *"I love seeing our alums and hearing all that they are doing for Christ in their churches and communities. I also want them to know that we, at Saint Paul, want to continue to be a support and resource for their ministries."*

SAINT PAUL STEWARDS, CONTINUED

Gifts between \$100 and \$250

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Reverend Kenneth Trickle, Jr. '91

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Mr. Fred Vahle

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Reverend David R. CH COL '77 and

Mrs. Lola M. Van Horn

Dr. John F., Jr. '92 and Mrs. Joyce A. Walker

Ms. Nancy Walker

Reverend Eugene E. Watson '69 and

Mrs. Lois Rogers-Watson

Reverend Daniel L. Wetterstrom '93

Reverend Gayle Marie Wilcox '07 and

Mr. Paul Wilcox

Reverend Vida R. Williams '09

Reverend Paul C. Wolf '96

Mr. Frank J. Yeoman, Jr.

SAINT PAUL AND THE ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION PARTNER

FOR NEW DMIN : **Dr. Oden Observes Renewed Pastoral Vision While Teaching**

Seasoned pastors need renewal. Many of them want new academic insights while others seek a stronger connection with God through spiritual retreats. With the new Doctor of Ministry program at Saint Paul, pastors can experience both.

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) in Prophetic Witness and Service began Fall 2016. Saint Paul School of Theology and The Academy for Spiritual Formation are partners in the program. This is the first time a seminary has worked with The Academy for Spiritual Formation, a ministry of The Upper Room, to co-develop an advanced degree.

The degree weaves together the spiritual renewal and grounding of the Two-Year Academy for Spiritual Formation with Saint Paul coursework, peer learning and faculty engagement. The goal is to maintain focus on pastoral leaders' spiritual formation—both for their own lives and for their ministry in the church and the world.

"These students are *loving* this program," said Dr. Amy Oden, Saint Paul Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality. She explains that she wished readers could see some of the DMin pastors' online posts about their growth.

"As a professor, I feel so blessed and privileged to get to walk with these pastoral leaders as they experience renewed vision and energy! It's only the first semester and already the students are amazed at what God is doing through this program."



Saint Paul Continues Historic Connection with Northeast Kansas City Neighborhood

Saint Paul alums and current students gathered to volunteer with children, work in the garden, and catalog books for the Guadalupe Center Charter Elementary School located on the Truman Road Campus. The event was part of the All Alum Reunion in May.

Members of the 2016 Saint Paul graduating class surprised Jean-Paul Chaurand, COO of the Guadalupe Center, with a check for \$1,000 to buy books for the student library as their senior gift. Academia de Niños Elementary School, located on the former Saint Paul Truman Road campus, currently serves children kindergarten through third grades.

Faculty, students, and staff took to the streets with Centennial UMC members to experience a prayer walk during the Saint Paul Spiritual Formation Retreat last fall. The members explained to their guests that they gather once or twice a month to pray for the schools, businesses, and neighbors that surround the church in the 18th and Vine area. The retreat was led by Dr. Jim Brandt, Dr. Nancy Howell, and Saint Paul alum Rev. Dr. David Gilmore, MDiv '11.

Jesus is the Light of the World. "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." JOHN 8:12



Saint Paul Acting President Presents Awards: Spring 2016

BISHOP ROBERT E. HAYES, JR. AWARDS



Dr. Nancy Howell and Oklahoma Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr. (center) presented the Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr. Awards to **Larry Lemon** on behalf of the Lemon Family (left) and to **Bill Junk**, President of the Oklahoma UM Foundation (right) at the Celebrate Saint Paul event in Oklahoma City.

Saint Paul has awarded a number of scholarships including Fellows awards to deserving students and reduced the debt they will incur for their seminary education due to the generosity of Larry, Lynette and Martha Jean Lemon and the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation.

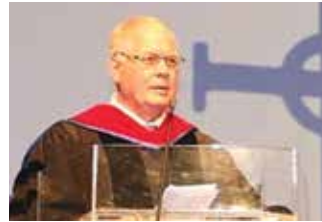
ADAM HAMILTON AWARD FOR VISION AND LEADERSHIP



Rev. Dr. Mark Holland, DMin '09 was awarded the Adam Hamilton Award for Leadership and Vision at a celebratory dinner for Pastor Adam Hamilton recognizing his 20 years of leadership on the Saint Paul Board.

Rev. Dr. Holland has a passion for God, for the church, and for the community. He is the Senior Pastor at Trinity Community Church, a multicultural UM church in Kansas City, Kansas. In addition, he serves the community as the Mayor/CEO of Kansas City, Kansas Unified Government.

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARDS



Rev. Dr. Jack Stephenson, MDiv '82 and DMin '94 is Senior Pastor of Anona United Methodist Church: A Multisite Church with three campuses in the Largo and St. Pete, Florida areas. The Florida multi-site church is known as a teaching church, referenced by many denominations. It is currently one of the fastest growing churches in the United States. Stephenson is published and teaches World Religion to college students. He is also a post graduate professor and lecturer for Protestant clergy in the areas of Church Health and Leadership.

"Jack is a graduate who has taken a serious personal approach to making disciples for Jesus Christ. He has provided extraordinary vision, passion, and faithful, effective leadership," said Acting President Nancy Howell.



Rev. Karen Lampe, MDiv '02 is the executive pastor for Congregational Care at United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Her work includes all of the pastoral care (counseling, financial care, prayer ministry, visitation) as well as weddings, funerals, baptisms, and pastoral connections to the church family. She has taught numerous practicums at Saint Paul

School of Theology as a seasoned ministry practitioner.

"No one has touched the lives of more Saint Paul students in the last decade than Karen," said Saint Paul Acting President Dr. Nancy Howell. "Her leadership across the United Methodist denomination has challenged many congregations to reshape how clergy and laity partner in the delivery of congregational care."

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY : Students' Ideas Spark Intentional Relationship Between Congregations

This past summer over 100 people from predominately black and white congregations came together to pray and openly discuss race, theology, and literature.

The series of weekly meetings between the historic Centennial United Methodist Church at 19th and Woodland and Church of the Resurrection-Downtown Kansas City Missouri was the brainchild of two seminary students, Jeff Williams and Matt Bisel. The first thought of forming an intentional relationship started from an idea ignited by a Saint Paul Ethics Class.

"Here we were. Two congregations about a mile from each other but separated by this unspoken... no, spoken divide: Troost Avenue," said Bisel.

Williams, MDiv '16, a former literature teacher, thought engaging members through theology and literature could offer some fresh perspectives. *"By understanding our different experiences hopefully we can have an impact on what we see happening in our communities,"* said Williams. Several participants have explained their experience as "life changing." But these discussions were only the beginning. Since then, the churches have worked together on housing improvement projects, on youth work projects, and have shared their choirs and preachers with one another.

"Perhaps the most important thing is that relationships are forming and barriers are being challenged and broken down," said Bisel.



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Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation
Lemon Family Foundation
Madden-Mallory Foundation
Missouri United Methodist Foundation
Nebraska United Methodist Foundation
Spectra Energy Foundation
Sprint Foundation
Texas Methodist Foundation
The Foundation for Evangelism, NC
The Magee Christian Education Foundation
The Oklahoma Unimted Methodist Foundation
UMC Resurrection Foundation, KS
United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas
Wesley Foundation, OK

He was the true light that
enlightens everyone coming
into the world. JOHN 1:9

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, KS
Bannister Road Baptist Christian Church, MO
Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, OK
Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, MO
Children's Mercy Hospital & Clinics, MO
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, OK
Christian Church, IN
Church of the Apostles, VA
Clinton United Methodist Church, MO
Epworth United Methodist Church, OK
Episcopal Diocese, AZ
First Christian Church, MO
First Christian Church, OK
First Heritage Bank
First United Methodist Church, Chaunte, KS
First United Methodist Church, Emporia, KS
First United Methodist Church, Johnson, KS
First United Methodist Church, HI
General Board of Higher Education & Ministry, TN
Grand Chapter of Kansas, Order of the Eastern Star
Grand Chapter of Missouri, Order of the Eastern Star
Grand Chapter of Oklahoma, Order of the Eastern Star
Greensboro Korean UMC, NC

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Johnson United Methodist Women, KS
Komarek Charitable Trust, NV
Kwanglim Methodist Church, South Korea
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Liberty United Methodist Church, MO
Mass Mutual Financial Group
Missouri United Methodist Church
Nebraska Donor Advised Fund
Old Mission United Methodist Church, KS
Okeene United Methodist Church, OK
Overland Park Church of Christ, KS
Quality Technology Services, LLS
Shenandoah Church, IA
South Central Jurisdiction, UMC
St. Mark's United Methodist Church, NE
The First National Bank of Liberal, KS
The Summit Church, MO
Tropthloco Tribal Town, OK
United Church of Christ, OH
United Church Funds, NY
United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, KS
Wickline United Methodist Church, OK

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
is preparing THE NEXT GENERATION
OF **CHRISTIAN** *leaders*

Upcoming Events

Slater-Willson Lecture

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017 · 11:00 A.M.
Kansas Campus, Wesley Chapel

Evangelical Society Lecture

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017 · 11:00 A.M.
Kansas Campus, Wesley Chapel

All Alum Reunion and Day of Service

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017 · 10:00 A.M.
Guadalupe Center-Academia de Niños
Former Truman Road Campus

Commencement-Kansas Campus

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017 · 11:00 A.M.
Church of the Resurrection, Bldg B

Commencement-Oklahoma Campus

MAY 19, 2017 · 4:00 P.M.
OCU, Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel

For a full listing of events, www.spst.edu

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