## **Hamilton Park United Methodist Church**

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson - Sr. Pastor

September 1, 2023





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Women's Walk #285 Sept 28th - Oct 1st REGISTER NOW!!

To attend or receive more information contact:

Dee-Dee Spivey



# News at the Park

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10:00 am

FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP
NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH OR IGNITE YOUTH
JOYLAND WILL BE OPEN

# **Peace Prayer**

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen."
—Francis of Assisi





PAGE 2 News @ THE PARK

### Gaston To Retire January 1st after more than three decades of service in the North Texas Conference



After more than 35 years of dedicated service, Rev. Cammy Gaston has declared her intention to retire from active ministry in The United Methodist Church, effective January 1, 2024.

Gaston's ministry journey began in 1980 at an International Methodist Youth Conference where she experienced the diversity and breadth of The United Methodist Church and claimed it for herself.

She started her ministry with youth in 1982, served as the Coordinator for CCYM from 1990-1993 and was on the launch team for Perkins School of Youth Ministry. Her ministry in the North Texas Annual Conference has included appointments to FUMC Allen and FUMC Richardson, planting Church of the Disciple in 1993, and serving as chaplain

at Methodist Hospitals of Dallas, director of the Denton Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry and as Metro District Superintendent. Since 2018, she has served as the director for The Center for Leadership Development.

"I first had the pleasure of working with Cammy more than 20 years ago, when I served United Methodist congregations in East Dallas and Oak Cliff," said Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. "She has always been an innovative and compassionate servant-leader, committed to lifting up and preparing the next generation of leaders in The United Methodist Church, I appreciate her commitment to equipping our clergy for their work in the mission field, and I'll certainly miss her voice on the Cabinet."

An important aspect of Gaston's ministry has always been mentoring and empowering Christian leaders. One of her goals as a District Superintendent and as director for The Center for Leadership Development was to stra-

tegically engage and empower more young and diverse candidates for ministry through attentive processes and mentorship. In 2021 and 2022, these efforts bore fruit, as the North Texas Conference had the youngest percentage of clergy under 35 in the United States.

"It gives me so much joy to pour into the lives of new ministers in the North Texas Conference," Gaston said. "I am continually encouraged and inspired by the energy I see in our young clergy and candidates for ministry. I know that they are going to be crucial in carrying The United Methodist Church into the future in a way that is relevant and meaningful, and I'm grateful to have been able to play a role in their paths to ministry."

Gaston will continue in her current role through the end of the year, and the entire Center for Leadership Development team is prepared to continue the important work of supporting, encouraging and equipping NTC clergy in the transition.

In her retirement, Gaston plans to coach and mentor, serve as a delegate to General Conference and be of service in the community. She is looking forward to pursuing her creative hobbies, connecting with her family and friends across the country and supporting husband Matt, who serves as the lead pastor at FUMC Plano and is not ready to retire yet.

"Serving the North Texas Conference has been such an honor and a gift," she said. "And while it makes me smile to look back on all that I've been able to be a part of, I'm even more excited about what's next for the North Texas Conference and the direction we're heading. We have incredible leaders in Bishop Saenz, our NTC Cabinet and our conference's clergy and laity. I'm truly looking forward to this next chapter and getting to invest in the church in a new way."



Andrekia Chandler
Jody Livingston
Pam Williams
Roger & Shirley Bouyer
Shirley Pleasant
Don & Diane Anderson
Herman & Linda Manning
Robert & Eric Phifer
The Stanley family

The Slatter family
The Polk family
James Bebe
Cathy Parker
James White
Joan Humphreys
Kathy Turner
Caroline Ramos (child)
The Robertson family

Geraldine Vine
Ellen Long
Shirley Dillard
Shaun Martin (H)
Breseha Jones & family
Doris Vance - (Family Death)

This is a prayer request and sick & shut in list (Hospital)

THE PARK UMC PAGE 3



# St. Paul UMC Celebrates 150 Years of Faith and Resilience

Senior Pastor Lucretia Facen is all smiles during the special worship service celebrating St. Paul UMC's 150th anniversary on Aug. 20. (Photo by Smiley Pool/Dallas Morning News)

# Church has been a vital part of the Black community in Dallas since its founding in 1873

What began under a brush arbor where formerly enslaved people gathered for worship in the original Freedman's Town of Dallas has flourished into a vibrant community that planted the seeds for six other United Methodist churches. St. Paul UMC celebrated its 150th anniversary last weekend with a legacy luncheon honoring leaders from each generation and two exuberant worship services.

"St. Paul is a pillar of strength and resilience for the African American community in Dallas. It serves as a spiritual sanctuary, a center for social and political change and a hub for education and community development." Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. emphasized during Sunday's afternoon event. "Your faithful ministry has given the Black community identity, dignity and hope for 150 years. But more than that, your struggle for freedom and for justice and for equity and inclusion has blessed all people."

In addition to launching the Dallas Bethlehem Center, St. Paul UMC also birthed Warren UMC, Lambuth UMC, Hamilton Park UMC, Highland Hills UMC, St. Luke "Community" UMC and Crest-Moore King UMC. This holy ground was also the first location of Huston-Tillotson College which is now Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas.

The 150th anniversary celebrations will continue throughout 2023, including the <u>Legacy on the Green Samuel L. Brown Golf Tournament</u> on Sept. 8. All proceeds will benefit St. Paul's outreach ministries, including Body and Soul which serves warm meals on weekends to the church's downtown neighbors experiencing homelessness.

St. Paul UMC is a living legacy to the faithfulness, resilience and strength of its people from generation to generation

## **EVENTS**



As a part of the Black Church initiative, we are being asked by District Superintendent Edlen Cowley, to coordinate the writing of the Black Church History in the North Texas Conference. We are documenting our history to have an accurate account of our presence in Methodism and particularly the North Texas Conference. The scope of this project will include local churches' histories, pastors who have served in the conference and our impact on transforming our communities and our conference. We hope to have the project completed by February of 2024, with deliveries to you during the Spring of 2024.

Even though there is a committee coordinating this work, your input, knowledge of our history and expertise are welcome. Please share this upcoming announcement with your fellow congregants, leaders, and United Methodist friends, as their expertise will be called upon. We will need you and your laity to identify or bring to our attention key people with whom we may later speak and correspond.

Please know that I am very excited about this project. We will tell our glorious story from our perspective. This written history will be a bridge to the past and future. With God's help and intervention, it will be special (maybe sacred) as all histories are special.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to be more involved, please contact Greta McKelvy (214)-662-4087; <a href="mailto:gretamckelvey@ghausen.com">gretamckelvey@ghausen.com</a> or Sharon Spratt (972)-768-4777; <a href="mailto:sharonspratt297@gmail.com">sharon Spratt</a> (972)-768-4777; <a href="mailto:sharonspratt297@gmail.com">s

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NPO# QU468 - Hamilton Park United Methodist Church

Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".

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Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.



### **STAY CONNECTED:**

- Senior Bible Study Wednesday @ 10:00 am in the church library.
- Wednesday Night Faith & Family
- Thursday Prayer 4:00pm-5:00pm Beverly Galimore (605-475-3200 / Code: 168 199)
- Worship Service 10:00 am (in person, Facebook or Website)

### Men of The Park!

Join us each Sunday Morning at 9 am for Sunday School in Rm 111. We study the Word of God each week from our Echoes Sunday School Book. All are welcome!