



ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1864-2014

St. Paul A.M.E.: 150 Years of Abiding in the Vine

Great is God's Faithfulness: Gratitude for Our Past, Joy in Our Present, Faith for Our Future

Lamentations 3:23b and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**St. Paul A.M.E.
Church
Pastoral Staff**

Rev. Thomas O. Nixon
Pastor

Rev. Mary Jane Palmer
Associate Pastor

Rev. Beverly M. Solomon
Assistant Minister

Greetings!

January 8, 2014

As we celebrate our 150 year anniversary year, we reflect on our past with thankfulness, rejoice in our present and look with great expectation toward our future.

"This I recall to mind, therefore I have hope. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: Great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:21-22

Great is God's faithfulness! What is faithfulness? Faithfulness means that you and I can count on God to keep His promises. Some of His promises are unconditional which means no matter what we do or don't do God fulfills these promises. An example of this is He always loves us. And another example is God is always faithful. He changes not. Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 2:13 that *"Even if we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."* Our response to the faithfulness of God is gratitude for our past, joy in our present and faith for our future. Our response is also to stay connected to Him by abiding in the Vine."

Some of God's promises are conditional which means if we do this, then He will do that. Jesus makes this conditional promise to us in John 15: 7-8: *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."* This says that if we abide in Jesus and His words abide in us, that we will pray according to His will and He will do His will through us. And that our Father will be glorified as we bear much fruit.

St. Paul was founded literally in a grape arbor... under a grapevine, which symbolically represents starting in the True Vine who is Jesus. It (this congregation of believers) is still standing because it was founded on the foundation of the Word and God has been faithful to watch over His word to perform it. The Lord has need of us in His vineyard. He wants us to be faithful to His command to go forth and bear fruit.

So let us challenge ourselves to bear much fruit to God's glory during this 150 anniversary year. Let us sow seeds of gratitude, seeds of joy and seeds of faith. How you may ask? Think **150!**

We challenge each member to make a personal commitment to make this the "year of 150." We have some suggestions below:

- Commit to be part of at least 150 people worshipping and praising God in church every Sunday.
- Show God gratitude and thank Him 150 times each week.
- Show joy by completing 150 acts of kindness this year!
- Pray fervently and specifically for 150 people!
- Invite 150 people to church!
- Memorize Psalm 150.
- Give away 150 things.
- Pray every day for 150 days. Feel free to keep going.
- Read your Bible every day for 150 days. Feel free to continue.
- Devote 150 minutes to grow in the Lord each month by attending Bible Study 2.5 times a month.
- Exercise 150 minutes per week - that is 30 minutes, 5 days a week.
- Volunteer 150 minutes a month.
- Sow an extra \$150 every two months. etc.

We believe as we are faithful to these things we will grow at least 150%! Let us make this our best year so far!

Love,

Your overall co-chairs for this 150 anniversary year,
Rev. Mary Jane Palmer, Sister Faye Farrar and Brother John Ponder

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