St. Paul

United Methodist Church 244 Kurtz Road Marietta, Georgia 30066 770-422-1089

www. stpaulumc. com churchoffice@stpaulumc. com https://onrealm. org/StPaulUMC

Rev. Shelia Preacher sheliapreacher@comcast.net 678-925-0103

Children's Ministry Victoria Godfrey

> Music Director Hope Field

Accompanist
Dorothy McCracken

Administrative Assistant Louise Byrd

Financial Secretary Ed Jackson

> Lead Nursery Morgan Field

Nursery Assistant Zahra Taylor

Sunday Schedule 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship

Life is Better—Together!

Rev. Shelia Preacher

Have you noticed how much BETTER life feels when we share it together—meals, stories, struggles, joys? Did you know the third Sunday of September is called "Back to Church Sunday"? The idea originated around 16 years ago. It had a simple premise: "Why not extend an open invitation to join you at church—to someone who has never attended or to someone who has been away for a while?" But as we discussed it here at St. Paul, we realized, "Why should we limit our invitations to just one Sunday a year?"



You see, according to their 2023-2024 findings, the Pew Research Center discovered that most people still believe there is more to life than meets the eye. Surveys show that most Americans believe in God, the soul, or a spiritual reality beyond this world. St. Augustine was right: our hearts are restless until they rest in God. Humanity longs for something more and for someone more. And we...in the church...have discovered that "more"...it's Jesus!

So, if people are already drawn to something "beyond themselves," why don't we INVITE our friends...our family...our neighbors? Imagine this: eight out of ten people say they'd likely come if invited—yet most say they've never once been asked. Could it be that the simplest invitation could change someone's life?"

The theme for this year's Back to Church Sunday is "Life is Better Together." And we at St. Paul KNOW this is true. Life isn't meant to be lived alone, and faith isn't meant to be experienced in

(Continued on page 2)

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Life is Better—Together!. (Continued from page 1)

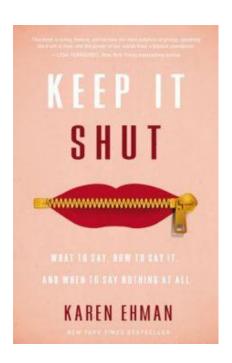
isolation. Jesus promises to be present when we gather, and that's why the Church isn't just a building—it's a community where we can find encouragement, purpose, and hope.

Mike and I were at a North Georgia Conference workshop last Saturday, and our bishop,

Rev. Robin Dease, took on this same theme, saying, "There is an experience of God's power we only encounter in community. When we gather in God's name, we move with power—his power—inspired by a collective fire that awakens the gifts in each of us."

Friends, we know this to be true: life really is better together. We have a message the world is hungry for, and all it may take is a gentle, genuine invitation. So, let's not wait for the third Sunday in September to roll around. Every Sunday can be "Back to Church

Sunday" when we extend the welcome of Christ. Who in your circle might be longing for the hope, belonging, and joy we have found? This week, why not ask God to put just one name on your heart—and then, simply, invite? You may be surprised at what God does through your simple invitation!



Keep It Shut: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Say Nothing At All

Karen Ehman, the author of our new Adult Sunday School study, admits that her mouth has gotten her into loads of trouble. She shares the hows (and how-not-tos) of dealing with the tongue. She challenges us to dig deep into what the Bible says about the ways we use our words, both in-person and online, and when we should keep our lips zipped.

Join us at 9:45 a.m. in Room 206 for this study!

Mission Outreach—September 2025 Helping Hands Fund: "We Are All Better Together"

Susan Short

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up," (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

At St. Paul, we believe the body of Christ is at its best when we care for one another. Our **Helping Hands Fund** exists for just that purpose—to offer a hand of love and support to those in our church family and community who are facing an unexpected need.

Whether it helps with paying rent, repairing a car so someone can get to work, or covering a utility bill during a

hard month, this fund makes a real difference in real lives. Every dollar given is used directly for assistance—compassion in action.

We invite you to prayerfully consider giving a small gift to the Helping Hands Fund. Individually, our contributions may seem small—but together, they can be life-changing.



When we unite in generosity, we reflect the heart of Christ, who calls us to "carry each other's burdens," (Galatians 6:2). Please, pray for the recipients, and may it strengthen their knowledge and love of Christ.

You can give by noting "Helping Hands Fund" on your offering or in the online Realm portal. Thank you for being part of a church family that knows we are all better together.

Always to His glory!



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Catching Up on Your Church Giving

Maureen Fleming



In the busyness of life, it's easy for certain commitments to slip through the cracks—including our financial giving to the church. Whether it is unexpected expenses, travel, or just the pace of daily life, many of us find ourselves at times needing to catch up on our tithes or offerings.

Before anything else, remember this: God's grace covers all. Giving is an act of worship, not a burden of guilt. Scripture reminds us that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), not one weighed down by shame. If you've fallen behind in your giving, you're not alone—and you're not condemned. Rather, this is a moment for renewal and recommitment.

Why Giving Matters

When we give, we participate in God's work through our local church. Our contributions support:

- Worship services that inspire and unite us
- Ministries that serve our children, youth, and adults
- Outreach programs that meet tangible needs in our community and beyond
- Missionaries and partners spreading the Gospel around the world

Your giving makes ministry possible—and impactful.

Practical Steps to Catch Up

Review and Reflect

Look back over the past few months and assess how much you intended to give versus what you were able to give. Consider setting a new goal that aligns with your current financial situation.

Set a Plan

Just like paying down a bill, catching up on giving can be approached in steps. You might add a little extra to your regular offering each week or make a one-time gift to close the gap.

(Continued on page 5)

Catching Up (Continued from page 4)

Use Online Giving Tools

St. Paul offers online giving platforms that make catching up easier. These tools often allow for recurring donations, backdated gifts, and tracking your progress. It's easy: type www.stpaulumc.com/donate in your browser. Click the button that says "Give Online" and follow the instructions.



Pray and Seek Wisdom

Ask God for guidance in your giving. Sometimes catching up may not mean matching every dollar, rather stepping forward in faith with what you can give now.

Communicate if Needed

If your giving plans have changed due to hardship, don't hesitate to speak with your pastor or finance team. Churches understand that seasons change and are here to support you spiritually, not judge you financially.

A Fresh Start

Catching up on giving isn't just about balancing a number—it's about reconnecting with your role in the body of Christ. It's a chance to re-engage in the mission, to invest in eternal impact, and to step forward with renewed faith.

As you consider your giving today, remember: every gift, whether small or large, matters deeply when it's given with love and purpose.



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Building & Grounds Report

Bob Trengove

The Daily Guideposts devotional is filled with uplifting stories that share real-life experiences and reflections. These stories prompt us to reflect on what Jesus means to us every day. The following excerpt caught my eye. How close is God?

Sometimes we overlook the God who works within us in favor of talented spiritual singers, inspired speakers, or mission workers. In Luke 17:21, the Lord says, "Behold, the kingdom of God is within you." Each smile during our day, each hospital visit and hug, every gift ushered forth from a steady, committed heart is a picture of the kingdom that lies within believers. If we follow Jesus' teachings, we need look no further for the kingdom than what we carry inside. Everywhere, all the time.

My wife and I just celebrated our 57th wedding anniversary. We feel so blessed with the life we have experienced with each other, and the children and grandchildren we have in our lives. We are thankful for all their accomplishments. We are so happy for God allowing us to experience these, and we hope for many more.

I remember not too long ago my mother going up and down the aisles at church to greet everyone. My mother loved life and loved people. I can see this so clearly in my own life, God within us. Whether my

wife and I are walking or praying, or out and about with people stopping us to tell their story, we feel blessed for people wanting us to be their sounding board.



Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all the blessings you give us. Thank you for working inside us as we experience life. We pray for our world and the future that God has in store for every one of us. Thank you for all the blessings my wife and I have experienced in this journey of life.

In Jesus' Name. AMEN.

The Building and Grounds Team at St. Paul is busy keeping up with all the tasks necessary to keep our church beautiful and running well. The following are a few tasks currently in progress.

- Thermostats: Tom Preacher has purchased new thermostats. Dean has completed the installation and programming at no labor charge.
- Computers: Mike has received quotes on from Vision Computers of \$3,200 for a I7 computer and \$1,900 for a I5 computer. He is also asking GCFA/UMC for a quote on the same type computers.
- Kitchen: The small chest freezer in the kitchen has stopped working. Tom Preacher has ordered, received and installed an Ice Maker in the kitchen.

Becoming All God Calls Us to Be

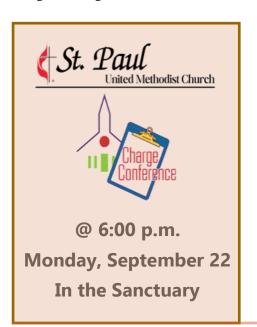
Peggy Pool

As a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, my life has been enriched and enlarged through our church's shared faith and community. Through worship, prayer, and service, I've experienced the grace of God as a living and breathing presence among people in our congregation who are striving together toward holiness.



In our Wesleyan tradition, we believe that the Holy Spirit works not just within us individually, but powerfully among us collectively. We are more than just a gathering of believers—we are the body of Christ, called to grow in grace through acts of mercy and piety. The Spirit takes all our separate gifts and stories and makes them into something greater than the sum of our parts. In community, I see how God uses our differences to build unity, how love multiplies, and how faith deepens.

Participation in church at St. Paul UMC transforms my life in real and lasting ways. Weekly worship reminds me of God's goodness and redirects my focus from the temporary to the eternal. Charles Wesley's hymns lift my soul; Pastor Sheila's sermons challenge me to grow; and the sacraments, especially Holy Communion, connect me deeply



to Christ and to one another. In small groups, I've found accountability, friendship, and a shared mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

I also know many who have drifted from church, friends, family, neighbors. I plan to invite them back not with judgment, but with love. Sometimes all it takes is a simple, "Would you like to come with me this Sunday?" The Methodist Church has a warm heart, an open table, and a rich tradition of grace. I want others to know they are welcome—just as they are.

Let us continue to be people shaped by grace, moved by love, and led by the Spirit. In community, in worship, and in service, may we help each other become all God calls us to be. Page 8 September 2025

From Your Lay Leader

Getting back to our roots: How would John Wesley invite friends, neighbors, and Family back to Church?

Mike McMillin, Lay Leader

Imagine John Wesley, founder of Methodism, walking among us today. How might he invite friends, family, and neighbors back to church—not just to attend a service, but to join a movement of God's love and grace?

Wesley's ministry was rooted in **personal connection**. He didn't rely on flyers or announcements alone; he visited homes, listened deeply, and offered heartfelt encouragement. His invitation sounded more like, "Come with me, let's worship together," because faith, to Wesley, was always nurtured in community.



He also showed care through **practical kindness**. Wesley organized schools, clinics, and food programs—making the church a place of real help. Today, he might host community meals, debt relief workshops, or health screenings. His message would be clear: church is a caring, Christ-centered family.

Wesley understood that not everyone was ready for a large worship service. That's why he created small "class meetings" where neighbors could pray, read Scripture, and share life. These gatherings offered safe, welcoming spaces for faith to grow naturally.

His preaching was **passionate and practical**. Wesley spoke in fields and marketplaces, addressing real struggles—loneliness, addiction, financial hardship—and pointing to the hope and freedom found in Christ. He'd encourage today's pastors to preach with that same relevance and compassion.

And of course, Wesley loved **joyful worship**. He and his brother Charles used music to stir hearts and share the gospel. Today, he might organize outdoor hymn-sings, community concerts, or lively worship nights—welcoming everyone back with joy.

In the end, Wesley's invitation wouldn't be, "Come back to church." It would be, "Come join a vibrant movement of grace—where love is shared, neighbors are cared for, and Christ's power transforms everyday life."

So how can we, the people of St. Paul, follow Wesley's lead? Let's dream together. I'd love to hear your ideas.





Presents Medication Management for Seniors featuring Rocky Breeland Wednesday, September 17 Fellowship Hall Doors open: 11:00. Program: 11:30. Adults age 18 and above are invited. Contact Susan McMillin for Information susan428@aol.com • (770) 310-4506

Medication Management

Most adults take at least one medication: managing them well is essential, especially for those on multiple prescriptions. This class teaches you how to ask the right questions, avoid common pitfalls, and possibly save money. You'll learn how to prepare for doctor visits, spot drug interactions, and use tools that support safe medication use. Medication management helps seniors oversee prescriptions, over-the-counter products, and supplements through personalized plans that prevent missed doses, incorrect amounts, and harmful interactions. As we age, these risks increase, making smart medication habits a vital part of staying healthy and safe.

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The Influences of Life in a Community of Faith

Tricia Glidewell

If I had a dollar for every time I have thought, said, or heard someone else say, "I don't know how people who don't have a community of faith to rely on survive in this world," I'd be able to take a lot of you out to lunch. How have you done that?

My church family has stood behind me and supported me through most of my major adult life experiences—the births of my children, the death of one of my parents, promotions and difficult times at work, the ups and downs of child-rearing, the death of my spouse, and the challenges of retirement.



You have nurtured my spiritual growth in Sunday School, Disciple Bible study, senior adult programs, Christ Walk, and numerous generic Bible studies. While I may have taught some of those groups, your reflections and discussions have expanded my Biblical understanding and my ability to apply Scripture to my life.

You've helped me become more Christ-like. Your examples of leadership, radical hospitality, stewardship, sacrificial giving, and spiritual development have inspired me and shown me how to lead a spirit-filled life.

You've given me the words to say to deal with new experiences that challenged me. In many of my most trying times, I've heard your words echo in my head as you have shared a similar challenge you dealt with in the past.

In short, the lessons I've learned from you have touched on every part of my life and guided my relationships in all aspects of my life.

My heartfelt thanks to you for shaping my life and giving me the support to make it through my spiritual journey and the challenges of adulthood. I couldn't have done it without you!

Check us out on Facebook!

<u>https://www.facebook.com/stpaulchildren</u>
Keep checking back for our upcoming Children's Ministry events!

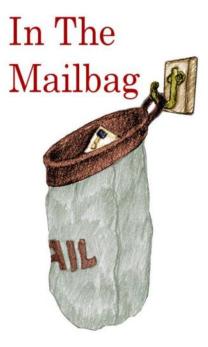
https://www.facebook.com/stpaulunitedmethodist

Check out the link above, and "like" our page to be notified when a new update is posted.

KSU Wesley 25/26 Greetings, St. Paul UMC!

We are very excited to be back for another year of KSU Wesley. Our official kick-off night is on Wednesday, August 27, at 8 pm. This year, we will focus on developing a spiritual direction for our students. This includes peer-led small groups and strengthening our student leadership teams, enabling them to share their fa more confidently with their peers. We are also introducin a fun contest called the KSU Kup that will run throughout the school year. Students can earn points at various event with the competition culminating in the spring. We plan hold a fall retreat and a spring retreat for our students, lik at one of Georgia's state parks where we can rent a cabin.

Our weekly activities include the Wednesday Night Wesle Gathering at St. Paul for worship, a Student Leader Small Group, a Sunday Night Student Hangout—a student



leadership-hosted fellowship time in the Wesley room—and Tuesday Night Trivia at Mellow Mushroom. We grew from an average of 12 students to 20 last year, and many incoming freshmen contacted us over the summer, so we aim to grow again this year. The UMC Commission on Higher Education Board will visit us on September 24 to meet with student leaders and join us for worship.

We could not do this ministry without your help. Your hospitality and support are essential to making KSU Wesley successful. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for being willing to give us a home. Last February, I asked the students where they wanted to meet regularly. It was unanimous among all of them that they felt at home at St. Paul. We did not know it at the time, but this gave us an advantage. St. Paul sits between the Kennesaw and Marietta campuses. This allowed us to serve both schools in ways we never could before. So again, thank you! We look forward to a great year and to God moving us together.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brian Hammond

KSU Wesley Director

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Belonging Makes Us Better

Victoria Godfrey

Children show us every day that life is meant to be shared with others. From the joy of playground games to the teamwork of building a block tower, kids naturally gravitate toward one another. They discover early that sharing experiences makes everything richer. The same is true in our walk with God—life truly is better when we live it together.

In Children's Ministry, we see this truth come alive each week. A child may come in shy or hesitant, but in moments of being welcomed by friends and leaders, they find themselves laughing, learning, and belonging. When children gather to

A New Way of Doing Church!

Saturday, September 20
4:00-5:30 p.m.

sing, pray, or open their Bibles, they aren't just growing in knowledge; they're growing in faith alongside a community that loves them. Their



questions spark deeper understanding, their voices encourage each other in worship, and their prayers remind us that we are never alone in seeking God.

The Bible paints a picture of God's people as one body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12). Just as no body can function without every part, our faith can't flourish in isolation. Children's Ministry gives our youngest believers a safe place to practice this truth—learning that they are valuable members of God's family, and that their presence strengthens the whole church.

As adults, we need that same reminder. Belonging to a community of faith enriches our lives by offering encouragement when we are weary, celebration when we are joyful, and guidance when we are uncertain. Together, we see more of God's love than we ever could on our own.

So let us continue to gather, worship, and grow—side by side and hand in hand. For in our walk with Christ, and in our St. Paul community, life is always better together.



Spotlight on A Disciple By Example: Ann Trengove

By Kathy Lim Sang

This week, we are shining a spotlight on a long-standing member of our congregation, Ann Trengove. Ann has been a member of St. Paul for a little over 50 years, after she

and her husband, Bob, moved to Georgia and found St. Paul to be a welcoming and loving church. Ann and Bob have been married for 57 years, meeting at a college career group organized by a minister at the Congregational church Ann attended.

Ann and Bob have two daughters, Wendy and Kelly, who are 51 and 48 years old, respectively. They also have four grandsons. Ann grew up attending the First Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts. After they were married, Ann and Bob moved to New Jersey and attended Bob's church, St. John's Methodist Church.

Before moving to Georgia, Ann had a career working at MassMutual Life Insurance Company and later at the National Union Bank of Dover in New Jersey. For fun, she enjoys reading both fiction and nonfiction books as well as taking long walks with Bob and their older daughter.

When asked about her talents, Ann said she believes she is a good listener, and her quiet demeanor shows why. She mentioned that strangers often start conversations with her, sharing their life stories. These conversations, whether sad or uplifting, always end with "God Bless You." Ann is a true woman of Christ, always walking in His footsteps.

Ann enjoys being part of church workdays, always ready to lend a hand wherever she's needed. She also finds joy in helping with Messy Church, where her gift for organizing and crafting shines. Through these efforts, Ann hopes to help others discover the love of Jesus.

Her deepest passion is to see her children and grandchildren lead lives that are both good and grounded in faith. She gently guides them in that direction, offering wisdom along the way. One of her favorite pieces of advice to her family is: "Always be patient and kind, and good things will come your way."

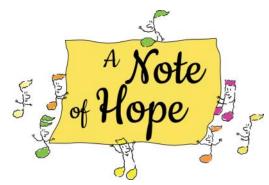
We are so grateful to have Ann and her family as part of our St. Paul community.

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A Note of Hope

Hope Field

Belonging to a community of faith is one of the greatest blessings in life. When we gather with others who share our beliefs, values, and hopes, something powerful happens—we find strength, encouragement, and joy that we simply can't get on our own. Life is full of ups and downs, and having a community of faith means we never



have to walk through it alone. In a faith community, we share more than just Sunday mornings. We share our stories, our struggles, our prayers, and our celebrations. When someone is hurting, the community rallies around them with meals, prayers, and love. When someone has good news, the community celebrates as if it were their own victory. It's a reminder that we were created for connection, and faith gives us a deeper bond than just casual friendship—it ties us together with purpose and hope.

Being part of a faith family also helps us grow. On our own, it's easy to drift or lose focus, but within community, we're encouraged and challenged to live out what we



Date	Time	Event	
4	8:00 a.m.	Church Work Day	
9	2:00 p.m.	Blood Drive	
23	6:00 p.m.	Loss of Spouse	
25	4:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat	
27	8:00 a.m.	LifeLine Screening	

believe. We hear different perspectives, learn from one another's experiences, and discover new ways God is at work in the world. That kind of growth doesn't just stay inside the church walls—it spills out into our homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

At its heart, being part of a faith community is about belonging. It's knowing that you are loved, accepted, and never alone. It's having a place where your presence matters and your voice is heard. And ultimately, it's a glimpse of the kingdom of God here on earth—a family of believers walking side by side, encouraging one another, and sharing God's love with the world.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	7a Coffee & a Blessing 10a ChristWalk FH 10:30a Monday Servants 7p ChristWalk	3 6p GriefShare (Rm 206) 8p KSU Worship	4 6:30p Stephen Ministry	5	6
7 9:45a SS 11a Worship 2p UPfield 3p Staff KSU Wesley Hangout	8 10:30a Monday Servants 12:15p Chair Yoga 6:30p Building & Grounds	9 7a Coffee & a Blessing 10a ChristWalk (FHI) 7p ChristWalk (Zoom)	6p GriefShare (Rm 206) 8p KSU Worship	11	12	13
9:45a SS 11a Worship 12:15p Messy Church Team Mtg (FH) 2p UPfield KSU Wesley	15 10:30a Monday Servants 12:15p Chair Yoga	16 7a Coffee & a Blessing 10a ChristWalk (FH) 7p ChristWalk (Zoom)	17 11:30a Forever Young 6p GriefShare (Rm 206) 8p KSU Worship	18	19	20 4p Messy Church
9:45a SS 11a Worship 3p Leadership KSU Wesley Hangout	10:30a Monday Servants 12:15p Chair Yoga 6p Charge Conf (Sanct.)	7a Coffee & a Blessing 10a ChristWalk (FH) 4p Hope House 7p ChristWalk (Zoom)	24 6p GriefShare (Rm 206) 8p KSU Worship	25	26	27
9:45a SS 11a Worship 2p UPfield KSU Wesley	10:30a Monday Servants 12:15p Chair Yoga	30 10a ChristWalk (FH) 7p ChristWalk (Zoom)				

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Serving This Month

September Servants

Worship Leader-Maureen Fleming Open/Close Facilities—Tom Preacher **Monday Servants**

9/02 TU Ruth Castellaw, Tom Short 9/08 Darrell Morgan, Marj Rhodes 9/15 Ruth Castellaw, Tom Short 9/22 Marj Rhodes, Ruth Castellaw 9/29 Marj Rhodes, Darrell Morgan

Media Team-Mike McMillin Easy Worship-Terry Palmer, Tom Preacher **Audio/Video**—Robbie Littlefield, Jyo Vanapalli Could it be YOU? Join Us!

Our Faithfulness

"I will be loval to St. Paul United Methodist Church and support her with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service and my witness." **JULY 2025**

Our Presence

Average weekly Sunday School attendance 17
Average weekly 11:00 worship attendance 39
Average weekly online attendance54

Our Gifts-General Fund **IULY 2025 INCOME**

Contributions	\$ 13,250.00
Processing Gifts	\$ 141.00
Total Contributions	\$ 13,391.00
Rental Property	\$ 1,695.00
Soccer Rental	N/A
Total Revenue	\$ 15,086.00
YTD 2025 Income	\$120,446.49
Total Expenses for JULY	\$ 18,737.58
TOTAL 2025 Expenses	\$134,206.53

SEPTEMBER



3 John Kone

17 William Hayes

27 Phil Mahoney

27 Tom Short

30 Olivia Agresta



- 5 Ruth Castellaw
- Jessica Moshqlani
- 6 Nancy Allen
- 13 Sue Elam
- 17 Samantha Ogene
- 17 David Preuss
- 20 Myra Morgan
- 23 Kenneth Haile
- 24 Kathy Lim Sang





Suggested word count: 350-400