



ST. PAUL TURNS 100

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Expansion on the horizon

The Saint Paul A.M.E. church in Marathon celebrated 100 years of worship on Aug. 20. One of the oldest and longest standing structures in Marathon, Saint Paul was originally the first school for African American children in the community. A hundred years later, the congregation is diverse,

lively, welcoming, and still growing. The centennial anniversary of St. Paul was also an opportunity for Pastor Larry White Jr. to focus on the theme of second chances, and what is yet to come. For the church this means the expansion of a fellowship hall and new parking accommodations.

Project Coordinator Annisa Davis of K2M Designs in Marathon, revealed the expansion plan to the congregation — the original church will remain untouched while a two-story fellowship hall will be constructed alongside, adding an additional 2,400 square feet. Above the fellowship hall will be offices for clergy members, and outside, a covered picnic area will comfortably seat guests. “It can bring the community together, that’s my goal,” said Davis.

The initial concept design was donated by K2M designs. Director of Architecture, Phillip Badalamenti, designed the conceptual layout for the fellowship hall. The theme of the celebration, second chances, is a theme all too familiar to Pastor White, who in 2009 returned to preach after a 10-year hiatus. When the offer to return came to Pastor White, his faith and optimism guided him back. “After 10 years away I finally returned to do what I love,” said White.

That same optimism is the driving force behind the plans for the expansion hall says Pastor White. St. Paul is seeking 33 pledged donations of at least \$1,000 from the community to fund the initial construction of the fellowship hall. Donors will have their names placed on the planned “Wall of Faith.”

For more information on how to participate in the expansion, call 786-554-1285 or email st.paulamemarathon@att.net. Mailed donations can be sent to P.O. Box 501378 Marathon, FL 33050.

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1. Members of the Bethel AME choir perform for the centennial celebration.

2. The congregation of St. Paul is growing, but remains a close-knit group.

3. Pastor Larry White Jr. gives a passionate and moving sermon about second chances.

4. Judith White reads a ‘Top 20’ list of things that will change in the next 100 years. White says the list was inspired by the classic cartoon, “The Jetsons.”

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