

We are God's people working together to accomplish something bigger than ourselves, effecting change in our community, in our nation, and around the world – all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Monthly News of St. Paul United Methodist Church

August 2017



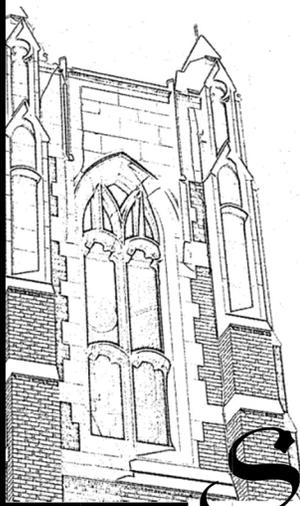
Pastoral Perspective: Rev. Jerry Brabec

In this age of short-term everything—parking, work assignments, relations—something that lasts for twenty-seven years may seem like a feat of extremes. Well, as of August 15, our ministry together will mark precisely that! We've celebrated 26 Labor Day weekends signaling a return to 'church normal'...26 Sunday School start-ups and third grade Bible presentations; 26 World-wide Communion; 26 Christmas Eves with the strains of "The Lord's Prayer" sung by candlelight; 26 observances of Ash Wednesday and Lent; 26 commemorations of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and joyous Easter Days; 26 Pentecost's celebrated in red.

The names are legion: the Revs. Rod Wilmoth, Ed Bonneau, Bill Ritter, Cole Fowler, Keith Johnson; a litany of twelve associate pastors and staff changes too numerous to list, but all remembered. This list joined by the many members and friends that have come and gone through the doors of St. Paul Church; the infants and youth baptized and confirmed; those joined in matrimony; the saints of the Church Triumphant memorialized...all of life's most precious rituals shared.

There are the hand-holding 'walks' while journeying in faith together...endless smiles, hugs, laughter, and tears. And the music: with visiting choirs and choir visits, solo vocalists and instrumental soloists, festivals and funerals, Bach and bells and blues and big bands and...so much music with those who love to make it and for those blessed to hear it! The drama that is worship unfolds week after week, sharing the stories that bring our faith alive, stories that bring hope to this sometimes hope-less world.

So it goes, on and on, now collaborating with Pastors Scott and Marta to feed and encourage the flock at St. Paul Church. And that continues to be inspirational work, God's daily gift. What is left to say but, "bring on twenty-seven!"



Wednesday Weekly

During August all are invited to a special 6:30 p.m. time of conversation with Q&A...hob-knobbing with a few of your favorite Hebrews...the iconic heroes and heroines of the Old Testament!

Join your clergy each week on Wednesday in the Parlor and then hear the stories come to life in the message the following weekend.

St. Paul in *Spiration*

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Stewardship-

Sustainable Future-Balanced Budget

-Our goal in 2017 is to live with a balanced budget as we grow in sharing the love of Christ in our mission and ministry. This is a large goal since we have not had a balanced budget in over five years. Yet, we planned well last fall to make this possibility a reality this year.

Results through July 26th

Church Gifts & Income \$274,855 Church Expenses \$267,844

Child Development Center Income \$335,588 CDC expenses \$323,528

Thanks for your support, prayers and ongoing participation!

Worship Attendance

Average worship attendance (Saturday evening and Sunday morning)

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 was 214

Compared to:

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 was 213

This is good news. In the previous 25 years St. Paul's average weekend worship attendance dropped by 12-15 each year. Within this historical context the fact that we grew by 1 is a good step forward. Now we need to start growing our average weekend worship attendance by 10-15 start now and moving forward. Jesus reminds us that "the harvest is bountiful." St. Paul worship gatherings will grow as each of us is intentional in attending worship and each of us makes a practice of inviting a friend, neighbor or family member to worship on a regular basis. We have good news to sharing in the life, love, teachings, and resurrection of Jesus. Please invite others to share in it.

Confirmation Class

The new St. Paul Confirmation class has met twice this summer with nine students and their parents/guardian. The class is for students that have finished 6th or 7th grade as well as any older students who have missed in the past. The students and parents will meet next on August 27th at 11:45 in the Church Parlor. The students will meet two Sunday afternoons a month in the school year. In addition, the class will visit a Hindu Temple, the Islamic Center, St. Cecilia-Cathedral, and Temple Israel during the year. They will also help in worship and serve the community throughout the year. Confirmation will be April 29, 2018. Please contact Pastor Scott if you have interest but not attended yet.

Young Adult Group

The Young Adult Group will help with the BART Refugee Clothes Closet in Fellowship Hall from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, August 26.

The group will also meet for dinner and Bible Study in the Library at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29.

Looking for Eclipse Information?

UNO held a meeting about the solar eclipse on August 21. You can go online and hear the recording at <https://unomaha.box.com/v/eclipse2017>.

August Worship

The summer heat is on and summer worship is the place to receive the cool refreshment of God’s grace! The heroines and heroes of the Hebrew Scriptures continue to be the sermon focus for the month.

Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the weekend of **August 05/06**. The Joy Bells ring their heart’s delight at both morning services on **August 20** and The Choir makes an end of the month appearance on **August 27**. As part of both ‘funday’ weekends we will enjoy the tried and true summer “shout & sings” where the congregation will lift up individual favorites to be sung. Songs of faith tell us so much about our spiritual journey; those cherished memories of why and with whom our path has brought us thus far.

Looking Ahead to Labor Day Weekend

Our 9:15 Fusion service continues to be inspired by a dedicated group of volunteer musicians headed up by Bob Goding, John Hough and Hank Robinson. Together with a host of faithful singers and players, their musical witness is a powerful testimony to their steadfast devotion to God’s people of St. Paul Church! The Fusion Band will offer ministry through music at the single-Sunday-service for Labor Day, September 03, with pianist, Pat Watts offering her music for the Saturday evening service.

Do You Have the Desire to Serve But Don’t Know Just Where?

Do you frequently receive compliments on your “winning smile” and “friendly, outgoing manner”? St. Paul needs you! One of the first people members and visitors alike meet on a Saturday eve or Sunday morning is the usher. We are in need of folks willing to greet for a month stint at any of our three services: Roth Chapel at 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. and the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to “step forward” and help where needed, talk with Jerry Brabec or let the church office know. You won’t be sorry!

Preaching Schedule

August 5/6	Rev. Shreve	Teen Defeats Giant Odds	I Samuel 117:41-47
August 12/13	Rev. Wheeler	“Hulda Saves the Day”	II Kings 22:14-20
August 19/20	Rev. Shreve	Wrestlemania: With God!	Genesis 32:22-31
August 26/27	Rev. Shreve	Street Smarts	Proverbs 1:20-33



St. Paul UMC Blood Drive

**Sunday, August 6, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Room 105**

Please call or text Marty Shields at 402-553-1457 or email her at mjmishi@gmail.com to schedule an appointment and/or if you have questions. Calls can also be made to the church at 402-556-2433.

Drink plenty of water and eat before donating.

Benson Area Refugee Task Force Clothes Closet (free to all refugees)

Saturday, August 26, 2017, 9 am to 11 am
St. Paul UMC Fellowship Hall

Help is needed to set up on Thursday, August 24, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and also to assist on Saturday, August 26, from 8:00-10:00 a.m.

All sizes of children's clothes are needed, as well as small to medium adult clothing. New socks and underwear are always appreciated, and school supplies are especially needed for this clothes closet. Please bring your donations to the church office before Thursday, August 24.

Habitat for Humanity House

Have you thought about helping build a Habitat for Humanity House? It's easy to get started. You can sign up online, picking the date(s) you would like to work and the type of work you would like to do. St. Paul UMC will be partnering with 19 other faith organizations to build a house at 3905 North 22nd Street. Work will start August 5 with completion scheduled for early December.

You can get sign-up information from Kent Bacon. Email him at kbacon@abbnebraska.com or call him at 402-533-2208.

Unable to help with construction? Consider donating to the August communal offering, which will be for the Habitat House.

Siena/Francis House

The Children's Ministry Team will be serving dinner at Siena/Francis House on Tuesday, August 1, from 5:00-7:00.

The Adult Ministry Team will be serving the dinner at Siena/Francis House on Tuesday, September 5. St. Paul UMC serves the dinner on the first Tuesday of each month. Thanks to all who have helped.

Undie Sunday Update

Many thanks to those who brought in "undies" for Undie Sunday, July 23. Shown here are 29 men's t-shirts & tanks, 47 men's boxers & briefs, 12 pr. men's socks, 83 women's briefs, 5 bras, 16 pr. women's socks & 1 pair of tights. All items were donated to Y.E.S. (Youth Emergency Services).



**July Special
Offering for
Missouri River
District Hispanic
Ministries**

\$537.00

Mental Illness Spiritual Support – God is our Refuge and Strength

It is easy to talk about physical health and even spiritual health within our culture but conversations about mental health are more difficult to have. Yet, maintaining good health includes body, mind and spirit. If you are looking for resources in this area they can be accessed at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, www.nami.org, the Nebraska Family Helpline operated by Boys Town at 800-866-8660 or the Community Counselor at St. Paul, Julie Lord.

Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

Saturday, August 19th, 8:30 am--leave church and head to Camp Fontanelle.

This is a Great Plains Conference on Youth Ministries event that includes the Blue River, Missouri River, and Elkhorn Valley Districts. It is for grades 7-12 and the cost is only \$20 per person. This includes worship, lunch and dinner, and all camp activities: laser tag, zip line, jumping pillows, petting barn, hiking, and more!

We will return to church around 6:30 pm.

Let me know if you're interested in going by August 2nd so I can get our reservations sent in on time.

Sunday, August 27th, 4-6:00

Meet at **Putting Plus** at 90th and Maple Streets. We plan to play 3 games, bring \$8 for miniature golfing.

We've had a busy summer doing mission, worshipping, and playing together.

Beginning August 27th we will resume meeting weekly for youth group.

Most of our young people will return to school the second or third week of August. Please keep them in your prayers. May we grow in faith and do better each day in our walk with God.

Rev. Marta Wheeler

Photo from the Youth Mission Trip



Some of the St. Paul Youth are shown working at the food pantry at Bidwell Riverside Center in Des Moines. They also worked at Hope Iowa and Camp Wesley Woods United Methodist Camp, where they stayed. Their fun time was a day at Adventureland Park.

New Members



Scott & Melissa McMahon, pictured with their son, Miles

Today's Tip: WHERE IS THE SALT?

Did you know that most of the salt (sodium) we eat comes from processed foods, like baked goods, crackers and canned products? To help reduce the salt you eat, choose more fresh foods, such as fruits and vegetables, and read food labels for sodium content. The Dietary Guidelines recommend no more than 2,300 milligrams of sodium per day for most adults (the amount in about a teaspoon of salt) or even less if you have high blood pressure or pre-hypertension.

Here's to healthy eating!
Health Ministry Team

UMW Update

Jan Walker our nominations chair has most of the officers in line for 2018.

I just got back from the Salina, Kansas Mission U. I urge anyone to attend this 4 day event next year. In addition to about 68 adult attendees they always have a children's and youth Mission U. There were about 16 youth and 8 children attending. Many of the youth were repeat attenders coming with their grandparents. What a great way to encourage our youth to be active in Mission! Jerry Brabec was the music person and that was wonderful. The spiritual study was every morning and was on the book Living as a Covenant Community by Evy McDonald (We have 2 copies in the Parlor). This was renewing. The format offered a chance to talk about how the biblical covenants apply to our lives in the here and now. I went to the Missionary Conferences Study in the afternoons on the Alaska, Oklahoma Indian, and Appalachia (including The Red Bird Mission in Kentucky). The presenter for the Missionary Conference was Pearl Thompson who is 13/16 Muscogee Creek and active in the Okmulgee Methodist Church in Oklahoma. She sang some beautiful Indian songs and spoke of the strong Methodist tradition among the Muscogee Creek. Annette Farquhar won a free trip to Mission U at Kearney (July 28-30) and will be going with Charlotte Rasmussen who is serving the Missouri Valley District as treasurer.

We are anticipating some going to the Quadrennial UMW meeting in Columbus, Ohio next spring and early registrations must be in by the *end of October*. There are funds to support those wishing to go. Please contact Marjorie Shreve or Pat Leslie if interested. This is an every 4 year event that connects us closer to the National and Global missions we support with our pledges.

Marta Wheeler and "crew" are putting together a Women's Retreat for October 1&2 from Sunday pm to Monday noon at Schuyler. Contact Rev. Marta Wheeler for reservations. All women are welcome.

In July and August UMW sponsors a no-Bake Bake Sale. Contributions go to local and national missions. You may leave a calorie free contribution at the office—please make any checks to St. Paul UMW. Thanks!

Marjorie Shreve, UMW President

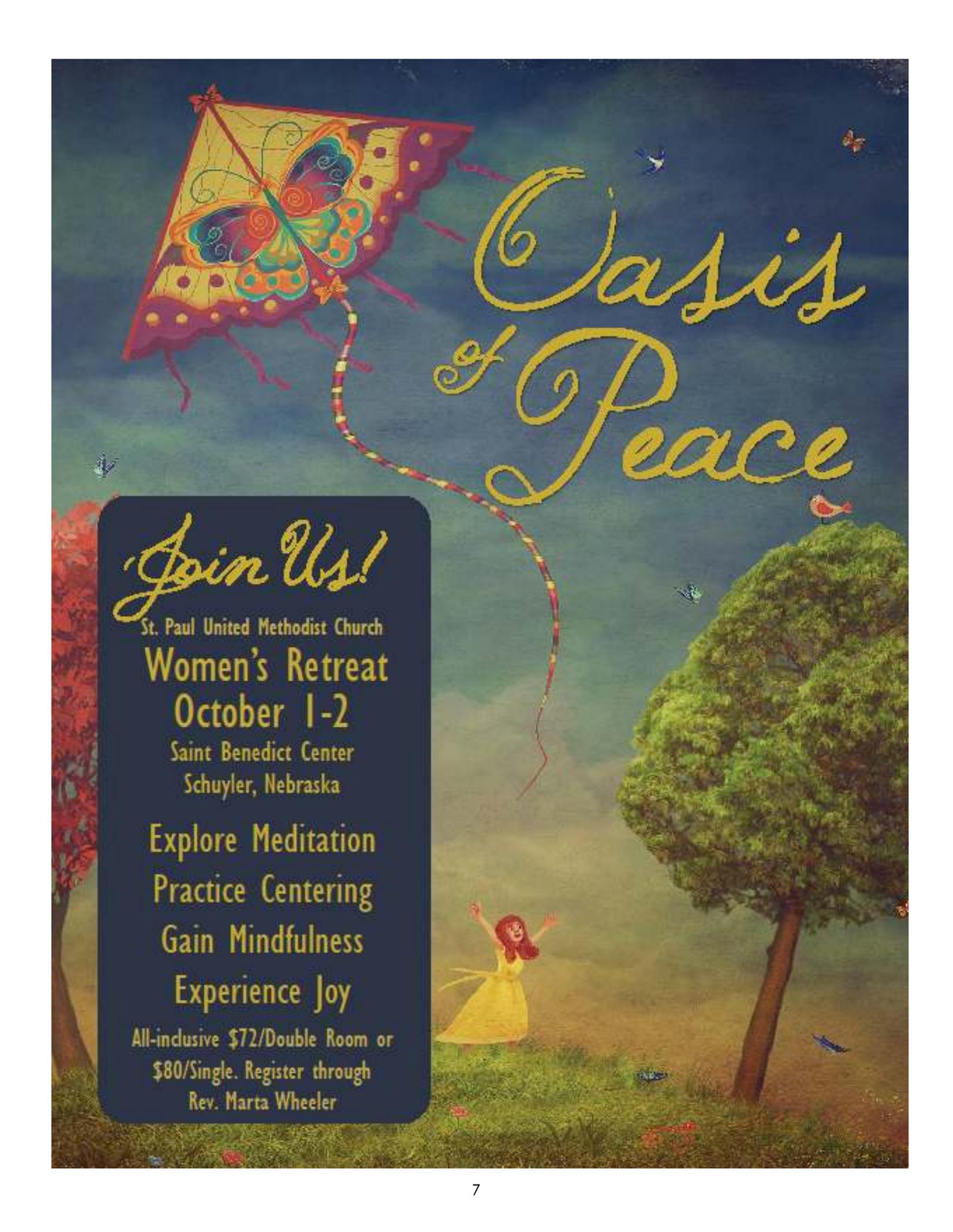
The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, August 26, at Johnny's Café. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Johnny's Café, 4702 S. 27th St., at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



Book Club

The Book Club does not meet during August.

Please consider joining them when they resume in September. They meet the second Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at Immanuel Village.



Oasis of Peace

Join Us!

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Women's Retreat

October 1-2

Saint Benedict Center
Schuyler, Nebraska

Explore Meditation
Practice Centering
Gain Mindfulness
Experience Joy

All-inclusive \$72/Double Room or
\$80/Single. Register through
Rev. Marta Wheeler

AUGUST 2017

UMW NEWS

<p>EXECUTIVE BOARD ***** President Marjorie Shreve Vice President Linda Mead Secretary Jackie Pospisil Ass't. Secretary Jan Walker Treasurer Pat Leslie Advisor</p>	<p>Next Meeting: September 6 Coffee at 9:30 in the Parlor, followed by Jeanie Brayman giving a recount of her recent trip to Cuba.</p>
<p>HOSTING IN SEPTEMBER Naomi & Rebecca OCTOBER Ruth</p>	<p>DATES TO REMEMBER: UMW Weekend, September 23.24 With Harrietta Reynolds, who will update us on Epworth Village and what it means to be a United Methodist Woman. Conference Annual Meeting September 29/30 at York, Nebraska See registration on line or on UMW bulletin board. \$30 for Friday evening & Saturday lunch + meeting.</p>
<p>Continue saving boxtops and labels. Place them in the envelope on the UMW board.</p>	

Many, many thanks to those who have agreed to a position with UMW in 2018. Our slate is complete—what an awesome group!

UMW Prayer Calendar birthday for August 2
Ginny Moore (DHMR-Domestic Home Missioner)
gen802@hotmail.com, 402 Orchard Lane, St. Clairsville, OH

Bakeless Bake Sale

Instead of baking for this bake sale, please put what you would have spent on ingredients (and maybe something for your time) and put it in an envelope marked "Bakeless Bake Sale"

Christian Sympathy

To Stan Richards and family in the death of his wife, Virginia.

To Patsy Woodside and family in the death of her uncle.

Congratulations

To Brenda Hixson & Mario Mazzo, who were married at St. Paul UMC on July 7.

To Taylor Lempke and Spencer Plank, who were married at St. Paul UMC on July 15.

Recent Hospitalizations

Marilyn Claborn, Peggy Sterling, Steve Dohe, Sue Bobek

Memorials

For Virginia Richards—Priscilla Holm

Thank You

Thank you, everyone for helping us through Virginia's trying times, and her death. God bless.

Stan Richards and Family

Childcare Update

Playground Renovation



The playground is modeled after a Nature Explore Classroom. Our classroom will feature a drawing area, hammocks to gaze at the clouds, butterfly garden, music area, balance beams, mud pit and sand. We still have a few things to finish up, but are looking forward to getting back to nature at all ages.

Mud Day



June 29th was "Mud Day" at the St. Paul Child Development Center. Swimming pools were filled with dirt, then water was added. A variety of dishes and utensils were provided. The children had a great time. A lengthy clean-up time followed.

Benson Farmers Market

The Benson Farmers Market opened its 10th season on May 6th. It is located at the Omaha Home for Boys, 4343 N. 52nd St (52nd & Ames), every Saturday, rain or shine, May 6 through September 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

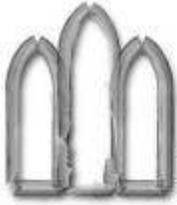


Stephen Ministry in Action

From a Stephen Ministry care receiver:

Life is so chaotic right now that I don't know much for certain. But I do know that my Stephen Minister is there for me and praying for me. And I've also come to realize that (even though I don't always feel it) God is there too and really is at work in my life.

Earl



Saint Paul
United Methodist Church
5410 Corby Street, Omaha, NE 68104

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



inWorship

Saturday Evenings

5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday Mornings

9:15 a.m. FUSION—Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m.—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. African & Bhutan Services



inOffice

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Saint Paul in **Spiration**