

MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

Inspiration

August 2019

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Greetings!

It is good to be with you at St Paul Benson. It's been a month now, and I am making my rounds of "new pastor" activities. This church is a lively place, so in addition to unpacking, writing sermons and meeting staff, I have: discovered the basement meditation garden that somehow opens to the sky above to be nurtured by rain and sun; learned most of the names of the kids in our schools-out summer program; located four kitchens and a printing press; attended both a BART (Benson Area Refugee Taskforce) meeting and a funeral; marched in the Pride parade; and of course started meeting our members, mostly through worship.

In August, I expect my attention will turn to logistics and the community around us. You may have noticed a theme emerging in worship of "neighborhood." You can expect this theme to continue as we learn from the scriptures about Jesus' expansive notion of what it means to offer a welcome to one another. At St. Paul, we will want to consider how we communicate our welcome to our neighborhood and the larger community and consider how communities around the world are united in responding to God's call to love our neighbors.

I'd like to invite you to consider who you might invite to join us for worship at St. Paul. With three very different worship services spread over Saturday and Sunday, we truly are equipped to meet the faith needs of a broad range of people. If you find yourself thinking, "well, I don't really know what happens at **that** service," you might consider planning a crossover weekend – visit a worship service that is new to you. Veering from our worship norm helps us both become more familiar with the new-to-us-service so we can describe it to others, and it also helps us to understand better what visiting is like for a newcomer. Will we know the people? Will the music be familiar? When we experience for ourselves the even slightly unfamiliar, I think we are better equipped to be responsive to those who are new to our worship spaces. I will assure you as a newcomer myself – I think you do a fine job of welcoming new people into our midst!

Grace and Peace
Rev Stephanie Ahlschwede

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.

August Worship Highlights

August 4/5

**We will celebrate the
sacrament of Holy
Communion**

August 10/11

**Susan Dimmit returns to
provide a music ministry of
piano at the 10:30 service**

August 17/18

**Handbell soloist, Kris Oertell,
rings praises and is joined by
the Joy Bell Ringers at 9:15
and 10:30**

August 24/25

**A musical "pop up" will be
presented by the choir as
part of the 9:15 and 10:30
worship**

**As part of the last 3 August
weekends we will enjoy the
"shout & sing" with the
congregation lifting up
individual favorites to be
sung at 5:00 & 10:30.**

Saint Paul Benson

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The Inspiration is published monthly. Information is due to the editor by the 19th of the month to be included in the next issue.

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A Sustainable Future for Saint Paul: Ministry Budget Info!

As of July 22, 2019 - Income \$254,745

Expenses \$260,879

Council Connection

Joyful fellowship and a spectacular array of goodies were on the menu for an All-Church Potluck in honor of Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede and her husband, Todd Wyatt, Monday evening, July 22nd. Fellowship Hall was nearly filled to the



brim with Saint Paul Benson members, family and friends, all celebrating the beginning of new leadership. The main dish, savory pulled pork, was prepared by Belinda and Warren Johnson. Marilou Dohe, Pearl Spicka and their merry team of hospitality specialists set the scene with colorfully-clad tables, laden with succulent sides and decadent desserts provided by attendees.

In addition to Stephanie and Todd, we were honored by the presence of Gina Gile, pastor of Blair First UMC. Gina presided over a brief charge conference at which attendees (1.) voted to support Michael Ndagijimana, a lay preacher in the Burundi/African National congregation, so that he can officially begin the candidacy process toward becoming a licensed local pastor in the UMC, and (2.) voted to amend the Saint Paul Foundation board membership bylaws.

In true Saint Paul fashion, we ended our time of food and fellowship with a song. Prompted by Rev. Marta Wheeler's recent sojourn to the Alps, Church Council chairman Shawn Ammon suggested all join in on a sweet serenade of "Edelweiss" – a perfect way to conclude our time together.

Church Council: Monday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark Parlor

Photos from July 7 Worship Service



in Worship

The summer heat is on and summer worship is the place to receive the cool refreshment of God's grace! From Pastors Steph and Marta we hear a series of inspirational messages about the importance of loving our neighbor as recorded through Christ's actions and words in the gospel of Luke. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the weekend of **August 04/05**.

As part of the last three **August** weekends we will enjoy the tried and true summer "shout & sing" at each 5:00 and 10:30 service, with the congregation lifting 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.

With metro area schools soon beginning, we offer a special "back to school" blessing as part of worship **August 10/11**. Susan Dimmitt returns to provide a music ministry of piano at the 10:30 service. Handbell soloist, Kris Oertell rings praises on **August 17/18** and is joined by the Joy Bell Ringers at 9:15 and 10:30. A musical 'pop up' will be presented by The Choir on **August 25** as part of 9:15 and 10:30 worship.

Lorraine Hahn, pianist, will offer her music ministry for the Saturday evening service **August 31** and the Fusion Band will offer ministry *through* music at the single-Sunday-service for Labor Day at 10:00, **September 01**. Worship is a way to recharge from a week of spiritual 'battery drain'...don't miss it!

Clergy Corner—Rev. Marta Wheeler

Working alongside the youth group at Hispanic Ministries was another awesome experience. The first day, as the children from Guatemala and Mexico energetically sang God's praises and pledged allegiance to the American Flag, Bible, and Church Flag, I couldn't help but think about children sleeping in cages in states bordering Mexico. One of the 7th grade helpers told his story of migrating to the U.S. four years ago. The gangs were coming after young people in Guatemala and forcing them to join. He is so grateful to be in Omaha and seems to have a perma-smile on his face while helping and looking after the younger children.

Pastor Juan Carlos shared that last week a 7 year old child was absent because he needed to be the translator for his parents with an attorney. They put sweet faces on the stories we've heard on national news.

The love that was exchanged between our helpers, and the kids enrolled at Hispanic Ministries was heart-warming. That's not the only thing that was warm. The day we went to Henry Doorly Zoo the "feels like" temps were over 100 degrees! Yet we held hands with precious and energetic children, and felt the wonder of creation once again as we oohed and awed in unison.

We frolicked at the Parks and Rec Dept. Hydrant Party in the sprinklers--becoming a full-force fountain--alongside the little ones, some getting more soaked than others.

Mexicano helado (icecream) topped off the two days of service and fun in S. Omaha.

Special thanks to Mary Cave for hanging out with us in the heat at the zoo!

Thank you for your prayers and actions taken to help all of God's children.

A Visit with Norma Parker

A group of choir members surprised Norma Parker, a former choir member, on Saturday, June 30, when they visited her at The Waterford at Miracle Hills and sang hymns with her.



Habitat for Humanity House

St. Paul members and friends, in partnership with the 19 other faith organizations, is building a Habitat for Humanity House for an Omaha family. A single mother, Mbaliwombazi wants to provide the best possible life for her family, which led her to apply for Habitat's [Homeownership Program](#). While she works hard on the build site to complete the 250 hours of sweat equity required of all soon-to-be Habitat Omaha homeowners, her mother Ndarusangiyabandi plans to support the home build by serving meals to volunteers.



Faith Coalition Habitat for Humanity House—July 22

The whole family looks forward to moving in and making their house their own. For Mbaliwombazi, their home will bring a sense of stability and self-reliance. "It will be so nice to be free – to be independent," she says.

Faith partners support Habitat Omaha and the community in so many ways – from pounding nails and bringing meals, to saying prayers and offering financial support. In the end, it's all worth it to see a family like Mbaliwombazi's open the door to a new home and brighter future.

Freedom from Hunger Food Drive

The Mercy & Justice team reports that 16 bags of groceries and \$50.00 were donated to the Living Hope Food Pantry by St. Paul members and friends. A big thanks to everyone who donated.

BART Update

Our next Clothes Closet is Saturday, August 24th. BART is looking for some volunteers for a Clothes Committee to do some prep work prior to upcoming Clothes Closets and also to plan the future of the Clothes Closets. Set up will be 2-5 on Thursday, August 22. Bookbags are needed. Email bensofrefueetf@gmail.com if interested in volunteering.

The HomeDish program continues strong. Our HomeDish program continues to be popular and has a waiting list. Refugee women create a traditional meal for 20 women and offer stories of their lives before and after arriving in America. All proceeds go to their support. A fundraiser will be held at Market Basket, 2501 S 90th St, Omaha from 5-7 pm on September 22. If you would like an invitation email kyokir@icloud.com. Tickets are \$75.

Citizenship class continues on Sunday afternoons.

We are in need of board members interested in refugees and in planning the future directions of BART. We welcome Pastor Ahlschwede to our Board!!

Marjorie Shreve



**July Special Offering for
Missouri River District Ministries
\$ 395.00**

Mental Health

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 Counselors at Saint Paul Church, Julie Lord and Tabitha Jameson, 402-354-6891 x 23.

How is it on your journey?

Are things going well or are there more bumps in the road than we had potholes this past winter?

The Stephen Ministry is a group of six persons who have been trained to be non-judgmental, open, caring and confidential companions. Is there something going on in your life that you wish to share? Our Stephen Caregivers are willing to meet with you on a weekly basis for as long as you need. Our caregivers are assigned by gender...woman with a woman and man with a man.



For more information or any questions, please feel free to call the Rev. Kathy Rice (at 402-393-0572).

Life Saving Tips from the Health Ministry Team

Knowing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can make the difference between life and death for a friend or loved one. Effective CPR, provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, can double or triple a victim's chance of survival. To learn CPR, contact American Heart Association at www.heart.org or local chapter of American Red Cross at www.redcross.org.

The next life saving tip: donate blood at upcoming blood drive on August 4 from 8-1230 here at St. Paul. Call Marty Shields, 402-553-1457 to schedule your donation.

Here's to our health!

Health Ministry Team

Our App is Live!

You may now load the new church app to your smart phone. Search for "Saint Paul Benson" where you get your apps.

Check the latest church calendar and find out about upcoming events. More updates will be coming.



Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

Saint Paul youth kept busy in July in helping for two days with the Hispanic Ministries' month-long program and the Benson Days Parade.

August 24th-Kick off for the 2019/2020 school year!

Come with us to Camp Fontanelle for the annual Connect Event! Youth from the Blue River, Missouri River, and Elkhorn Valley District will be come together to *connect* with other youth from across this area. Special activities such as zip line, gaga ball, and community games will be available for free time.



The event will be a time for worship and great food provided by the camp. Registration will be paid from St. Paul's Youth account.

Let us know if you're coming and if you're planning to bring a friend.

Sept. 8th and 15th-Fun Youth Group meetings for grades 7-12 will be held every other week from 4-6:30 pm. More to come about this next month!

We appreciate all of the support that is provided the youth of Saint Paul Benson. Thank you!!

Rev. Marta Wheeler
402-902-8545

Saint Paul Blood Drive August 4

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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.

Photos from Youth Mission Trip to Colorado



Jackson Avila, Tessa Randall, Steven and Stephanie Rosenberger, Amelia Wheeler, Rolando Avila, and helper Garry Bodine volunteering at Christ's Body Ministry.



Jackson Avila confidently leads the way on the high ropes course!



Oh, the water was so cold! This was a Clear Creek Revival of sorts as prayers were offered with upcoming rapids! Good teamwork everyone.



Join Us!

SAINT PAUL BENSON

Women's Retreat

Spiritual Watercolor

Awaken and celebrate your own creativity using the wonders of watercolor paint! You are invited to be playful in your spiritual life while partnering with God's creative Spirit.

Very easy watercolor techniques will be taught, focusing on the process rather than the end product, and NO previous art experience is necessary!

Our facilitator is Glenda Dietrich Moore of Lincoln NE. Her arts ministry, "Creation Energy," celebrates faith, visual expression and the vibrancy of life.

Learn more online:
www.GlendaDietrich.com

OCTOBER 20 & 21
SAINT BENEDICT CENTER
SCHUYLER, NEBRASKA

INCLUDING LODGING, MEALS
AND ART SUPPLIES
\$105/DOUBLE ROOM OR
\$115/SINGLE

CONTACT REV. MARTA WHEELER
TO REGISTER BEFORE SEPT. 13
MWHEELER@STPAULOMAHA.ORG
OR 402.556.2433

AUGUST 2019

UMW NEWS



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Vice President
Mary Stolzer

Secretary
Connie Crawford

Treasurer
Lorraine Hahn

Advisor
Kathy Rice

Mission Focus

Malawi, Church Development.
Educating and training of the laity and clergy to be part of the program to build new churches.

Mission Witness

David G. Schultz, Executive Director, Wesley House, Meridian, Mississippi, writes, "The mission attempts to reach out through food pantries, clothes closets and assistance. However, all too often the mission is God reaching out to us through smiles, gratitude and appreciation."

Box Tops for Education

Save for Rose Hill Elementary School

Please remember the "Bake-less Sale" for the summer, as we do not meet until September 4, 2019. Any contributions may be sent to Lorraine Hahn.

A slate of new officers should be selected and presented at the September 4 meeting. This list needs to be in the District Office by October.

A committee has been selected to choose another Dedicated Light recipient and two special recognition pin nominees for 2019 to be presented in September.

There is one last Mission U opportunity—a Mini Mission U in Topeka on August 8-9.

Registration deadlines is August 2 for Topeka. If you're interested in attending, please notify Mary Stolzer or Rev. Jerry Brabec.

Our speaker for the September 4 meeting is from the Assistance League, which represents women dedicated to Operation School Bell. Their role is to provide clothes and items needed by the underserved children of the Omaha Public Schools.

St. Paul's UMW weekend will be September 21-22. The speaker will be Esther Hay from Waverly, Nebraska, who was the first president of the Great Plains United Methodist Women (2014-2016) and is dean of Great Plains Cooperative Mission U at Kearney and vice president of the board of directors of Epworth Village. She also served on the Big Garden Project for several years.

Hospitalizations

Pearl Spicka

Memorials

For Peg Reed—Bradshaw, Nebraska, United Methodist Church, Cheryl Bedell, Jim Boston

For Shirley Edwards—Cheryl Bedell, Ronnette Sailors, Jan Tuttle, Rogene Schneider, Roland & Amy Avila, Amber Leed Kelly, Barbara Griffith, Craig & Jane Nordaker, Paul & Faye Weckle, Betty Johnson, LaRue Edwards, Michael & Stephanie Rosenberger, Glenda & Oral Long, Michael & Ann Kueny, Dee Maycock, Bob & Janelle Goding, Steven & Vicki Rundell, Marc & Karen May, Bruce & Bobbie Moore, Blake & Crystal Vacura, Richard & Judy Mori, Patricia Rahn, Terry & Mary Hughes, John & Shawn Hough, Debbie Stecker, Ronda Blakley, Kent & Sue Bacon, Judy Leed, Raymond & Cristine Nabb, Robert & Sheila Gronewoller, Dean & Constance Ullerich, Jeffrey & Priscilla Roby, Jim & Lynda Madison, Jim Boston

For Clyde Arnold—Cheryl Bedell, Jim Boston

For Audrey Bedell—Cheryl Bedell

For Richard Hagerman—Judy Buono, Gladys Lantz, Jerry Brabec

For Ione Ferrel—Carole Langan, Eva Swanson, Gladys Lantz, Colleen Lovejoy, K & V Faller, Susan Hopkins, Jack & Joan Hanson, Jacqueline Sowers, Jerry & Patricia Gress, Russell & Janette Burton, Paul & Ruth Maginn, Douglas & Jacqueline Jensen, Jerry Brabec

For Bob Mathiesen—Gladys Lantz, Jerry Brabec, Barry & Pat Butterfield

Book Club

Strings Attached, by Joanne Lipman and Melanie Kupchynsky, is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their August meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, August 10, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

Christian Sympathy

To the family of Ione Ferrel in her death

To the family of Bob Mathiesen in his death.

To the friends of Richard Hagerman in his death.

To the family of LaVerna Jackson in her death.

To the family of Grace Custer in her death.

Congratulations

To Josh and Amy Odson in the baptism of their son, Robert Carson, on July 14. Robert's grandparents are Barry and Pat Butterfield..



Honorarium

In honor of Robbie Odson

Thank You

My heartfelt thanks to all my church friends who supported me as I walked with my two sons, Dennis and Ben, in the cancer fundraiser.

Rozanne Christensen

The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, August 24, at Greek Islands. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship, or meet the group at Greek Islands, 3821 Center St., at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome.





5410 CORBY STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68104

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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WORSHIP

5:00 PM
Saturday Casual
Roth Chapel

9:15 AM
Sunday Contemporary Fusion
Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM
Sunday Traditional
Sanctuary

12:00 PM
African & Bhutan Services

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM - 11:45 AM
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