



Have a Blessed Christmas



Have you ever wished you could give two gifts in one? Well, you can by using the UMCmarket, and shop on line. Shop on line at your favorite stores and a percentage will be given to Saint Paul UMC!

UMCmarket, is a tremendously rewarding opportunity to earn money for our church. Every store at UMCmarket is happy to pay a percentage of the purchased amount as a donation to our church. There is no additional cost or charge for either the church or the shopper. The stores send UMCmarket their contributions within 30-90 days. Once our church reaches \$100 in donations, a check will be mailed.

You can easily sign up for free! When you go to UMCmarket.org, you will click on the "GET STARTED" button. You will simply sign up with your email or through Facebook, find our church, and shop! See you can give two gifts in one!

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Keith W. Johnson, Lead Pastor

Important Dates in December

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 7 | Cookie Walk
Advent Fair |
| Dec. 15 | Angel Tree Gifts Due |
| Dec. 17 | M&M Worship Service |
| Dec. 22 | Children's Pageant & Dinner |
| Dec. 24 | Worship Services at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:30 pm |



Saint Paul Church

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www.stpaulomaha.org

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Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

FaraNita Dunbar
Director of Children's Ministries

Kathy Rice
Director of Stephen Ministry

Doug Olson
Youth & Adult Ministries

Sue Bobek,
*Membership Secretary &
Administrative Assistant to the
Lead Pastor*

Connie Almgren
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Sue Bacon
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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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Stephen Caregivers Commissioned

During the weekend of November 8-9, 2014, our four Stephen Caregivers were commissioned as part of the Stephen Ministry. They have completed 50 hours of training to prepare for this ministry. Those commissioned are Elizabeth El-sasser, El Siebert, Jan Tuttle and Charlene Wilcox.

Stephen Caregivers will be assigned to persons who are in need of a listener, companion, supporter in a crisis, illness or other life changes. They will be assigned by Kathy Rice, Stephen Leader, and Dr. Keith Johnson, Lead Pastor. Those who request a Stephen caregiver will be kept in confidence. The only other person who will have any knowledge will be the caregiver who is assigned. When the time with a particular care receiver is completed, all records will be shredded.

The caregivers will continue to meet twice a month for peer support and supervision and for continuing education. Again, confidentiality is always maintained.

Another aspect of Stephen Ministry is that caregivers are always assigned by gender. A man will be assigned to a male care receiver and a woman, to a female care receiver. You will meet face to face with your care giver for an hour a week and other forms of communication as needed. This would include phone or email.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Kathy at 402-556-2433 or by email at krice@stpaulomaha.org or kar68134@hotmail.com.

There will also be information cards in the pew racks which you may use.



Kathy Rice, Director of Stephen Ministry, (center) with newly commissioned Stephen Caregivers El Siebert, Jan Tuttle, Elizabeth El-sasser and Charlene Wilcox.



New Name for Foundation

The Saint Paul United Methodist Church Foundation has taken a new name—THE JUBILEE FUND. It is with joy that we share this news. We want to acquaint each of you with the blessings that the Foundation brings to our church.

You are invited to join the Foundation Board members for coffee and rolls before and after the 10 o'clock Jubilee service on January 4.

Waiting....

for a parking space...a bump up the career ladder...for worship to begin! Advent, the season of intentional waiting, is again upon us! This year, in message and in song, the time of waiting will be used as preparation for concentrating on God's call to us as believers in Emmanuel...God with us. We wait in preparation as the seasonal evergreen trees are decorated by our youngest worshippers (and those young at heart) as part of worship the first weekend of Advent, **November 29/30**.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated the second weekend, **December 06/07**, with a communal offering designated for the United Methodist Student Fund. The Joy Bells will add their musical grace to all morning services, with David Schack, organ and Holly Stout, cello, adding their gifts to the 11:05 service.

The mid-month opportunity for the holy sacrament will be the M & M service Wednesday evening, December 17 at 7:00 with Patsy Woodside bringing a special message in word to those gathering in Roth Chapel.

The traditional setting of Advent Lessons and Carols will be celebrated in worship the fourth weekend of Advent, **December 20/21**, with the Solid Brass Quartet playing the Sunday morning 8:15 & 11:05 services. Guest organist, David Schack will join us for worship at the late hour.

The Children's Ministries impromptu nativity, where Luke's story of the birth of Christ is reenacted complete with shepherds, angels, the holy family and manger animals will be offered to members and friends on Monday, **December 22** at 5:30 p.m. Dinner in Fellowship Hall will be served as part of the celebration.

Christmas Eve 2014 will offer three services of carols, communion and candlelight at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:30 as we celebrate again the miracle of love that came from heaven to earth. The long wait is over; God's gift in Christ has arrived!

inConcert

One of the "rites of passage" for advancing young musicians immersed in the requirements of a baccalaureate degree is the Senior Recital. St. Paul Church is indeed fortunate to have reaped the benefits of incredible student talent over the years. So, it is with great interest we have followed the musical (and taekwondo) career of Jordan Relford, who has grown up around the 5:00 worship 'family' and continues to grace our worship at all hours with his special gifts. Jordan excels on the alto saxophone and will present a musical collage of his prowess on Thursday, **December 11** at 5:00 p.m. in Room 105 of the Strauss Performing Arts Building on the UNO campus. All are invited to this open opportunity to celebrate with Gerald and Virginia, as Jordan takes yet another first step in a God-gifted life!

Special music from the piano studio of Omaha Music Teacher's Association president, Lisa Batten, will fill the Sanctuary on Saturday, **December 13** at 7:00 p.m. One of the prime opportunities in showcasing the Yamaha C6 concert grand is the occasion to hear students representing a wide variety of skill levels. Such will be the opportunity provided by these young players ranging in age from 8 to 18. Each student will be featured in one classical song and one holiday favorite of their choosing. There will be a meet and greet reception following the recital in the Gathering Area.

Poinsettias with a Mission

We have begun taking orders for poinsettias for the Christmas holiday. You may secure your holiday plant for \$10, dedicating it in memory or honor of loved ones, occasions or just to grace our worship spaces. As in past years 25 total plants will be displayed in the Sanctuary, Chapel and Fellowship Hall. Monies collected above the necessary amount will be used in support of St. Paul's mission giving. To place an order, look for the green gift boxes with order forms nearby, returning your check and form appropriately or come to the church office.

Putting our Computers to Work for Missions

Sharing our gifts is a spiritual discipline that helps us grow stronger as the body of Christ. The church's response to those in need is an expression of our faith, a confirmation of our discipleship and a witness to our love for our neighbors.

This year we have an exciting opportunity to maximize your support. On December 2, as part of UMC #Giving Tuesday, you can express the spiritual discipline of giving by donating online through The Advance to any project or missionary of your choice. On this day only, December 2, your gifts will be matched up to \$1 million. As always, 100 percent of your gift will go towards the designated project.



Help communities build churches, dig wells, feed and educate children and equip hospitals and clinics. Support a missionary who is sharing the light of Christ or bring healing and hope to survivors of natural and civil disasters. **Give on Tuesday, December 2.**

www.umcmision.org/give

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree will be in the Gathering Area from Thanksgiving Eve until the angels are gone. Each angel on the tree will have the name of a child, his or her age, and suggestions of things the child would like to have for Christmas. The gifts listed on the angels are options—not all gifts have to be purchased.

If you are able to provide a gift for one of the children, please take an angel from the tree, purchase one of the items listed and bring the present to the church, unwrapped, by December 15.

Please tape the angel to your gift when you bring it so the volunteers who sort the gifts will know to which child it belongs.

Habitat for Humanity House

The Habitat house built by the Carpenter's Crew Coalition, of which Saint Paul UMC is a part, will be dedicated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 6. The house is located at 2444 South 20th Street. The new homeowners, Javier and Maria Chavez, will be presented with the key to the house and a Bible. Everyone is invited to attend.



**November Ministerial
Education Fund
Special Offering
\$456.79**

Poinsettias for Christmas

We are taking orders for poinsettias to decorate for Christmastide. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Due to space, a limited number of plants will be displayed in the Sanctuary and Chapel. Collections exceeding the amount needed will go to missions. Please fill out the order form below and return to the church office. Last date to order is Sunday, Dec 21. Please write legibly.

I would like to order: _____ Poinsettias @ \$10.00 each

In _____ Honor ___ Memory of: _____

In _____ Honor ___ Memory of: _____

In _____ Honor ___ Memory of: _____

From: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Make checks payable to Saint Paul Church)

New Members



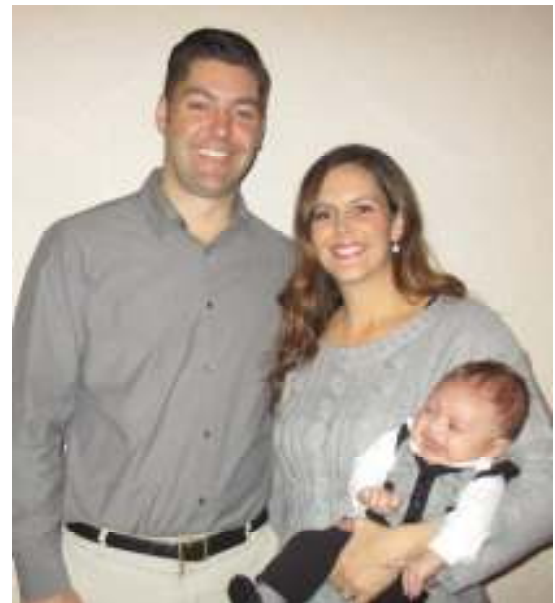
**Jared & Tammy Magathan,
Autumn & Braedon**



Betty Brown



Lyle & Mary Cave



**Ryan & Ashley Hedden,
Hudson**

Stay Healthy During the Holidays

Make a plan to enjoy the holidays without overeating and regretting it later.

- Get up early and go for an invigorating walk or jog.
- Eat a light, healthy breakfast.
- Choose only foods that are special and that you don't eat regularly. Take small portions and savor them slowly. Chew your food well, sip water and enjoy conversation.
- Help clean up and suggest a walk after dinner, even if you have to bundle up to do so.

Health Ministry Team

Youth & Adult Ministries

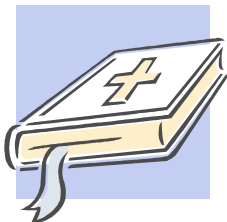
Youth Group Cookie Walk

The St. Paul Youth Group requests the congregation's support for our annual Cookie Walk. Please pick up a recipe in the gathering area, or view them all online at the St. Paul website (www.stpaulomaha.org) in the Youth Ministry tab. After baking a couple of batches, please bring them to the church Sat Dec 6th 3 – 6 pm, or first thing Sun Dec 7th. The Cookie Walk will help support our Youth Group Summer Mission Trip. This summer we plan to go to Camp Fontanelle for their Road Rules program. St. Paul has a great history of supporting our youth as they experience a variety of mission work, faith building and fellowship activities while attending. Please plan on baking up some cookies (and opportunities) for our youth!



Youth Caroling and Ice Skating

Our Youth Group will join with First UMC, Hanscom Park UMC, St. Paul's UMC (Papillion) and Trinity UMC (Ralston), as well as youth from Youth Emergency Services for caroling on Dec 14th at 1:15 pm. We will visit St. Joseph Towers at 10th& Dorcas to carol, go to ConAgra rink for skating, and then warm up with hot drinks at Urban Abbey. Adults are also welcome! Contact Doug Olson for details.



Tuesday Study Group



The Tuesday Study Group continues our exploration of Wesleyan beliefs and practices as we read “The Wesleyan Way” by Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, our bishop. We meet at 10 am in the Library, and anyone is welcome to drop in.

We are also beginning a Tai Chi practice group! Janet Tuttle, one of our group members has been recently certified as an instructor and is teaching us some warm up stretches, 8 basic forms, and a cool down routine. If there is enough interest, she may be available for a larger group of students at our 9:30 am Tuesday practice, and possibly an early evening group after the first of the year. If you have an interest in participating in the Tai Chi group, contact Janet Tuttle or Doug Olson.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ADVENT

November 30, 2014

We will have our **Advent Kickoff** with a Movie and Popcorn. Each child will take home an advent calendar and activity packet. Please study the advent passages as a family.

Come One. Come All.

Come ReCraft Your Life !

at the **38th Annual Advent Fair**
on **December 7, 2014**

and Have a Ball!

We need volunteers for two shifts—

First Shift is 2:30-4:30p and Second Shift is 4:15-6:00p.

The Children's Ministry Team **NEEDS YOU** to make this event a success. Please sign up via email at fdunbar@stpaulomaha.com or on the sign-up sheet located in the church office.

Thank you in advance for making St. Paul's Children's Ministry a part of your mission,

JESUS THE SWEETEST GIFT

Please Join the Children's Ministry Team, Childhood Learning Team, and our very own Jerry Brabec (as narrator) for an Impromptu Musical Christmas Story and Soup Dinner.

Monday, December 22, 2014 5:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall

volunteer with
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



St. Paul Family, We need team members, teachers, assistants, and parents to help make our ministry a success. Our children would like to see over 400 new children added to our ministry roster. We need all of you to help make our dream and reality!



Matthew 19:14

UMW NEWS

Featuring the activities of the United Methodist Women of Saint Paul UMC. DEC. 2014

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:
Kathy Rice
Vice President
Linda Mead
Secretary
Jackie Pospisil
Ass't. Secretary
Jan Walker
Treasurer
Pat Leslie
Advisor
Judy Stransky


**RUTH CIRCLE
SERVING IN
DECEMBER**

OUR CHRISTMAS MEETING WILL
BE ON DECEMBER 3 AT 9:30 AM.

Following coffee and goodies,
the children of our PreSchool
will entertain us with a
musical program.

Their visit is always the highlight of the year!

All are welcome.



PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR
PRAYERS.....

DEACONESS,
NANCY VANANTWERP

PLEASE SAVE LABELS FROM
CAMPBELL SOUP
(WHOLE LABELS)
AND
GENERAL MILLS PRODUCTS.

DATES TO REMEMBER::

NOVEMBER 22 & 23...MINI-MART
NOVEMBER 26...SOUP SUPPER & THANKSGIVING SERVICE

DECEMBER 1, PLEDGES DUE
DECEMBER 7, ADVENT FAIR

Recent Hospitalizations

Sue Sherman, Dean Lubberstedt, Gail Carpenter Johnson

Christian Sympathy

To Jack & Claudia Griger in the death of Jack's sister.

Thank You

I have been your Parish nurse for one year as of November. Thank you, thank you for all of your acts of support... Not only with the Parish nurse events but helping me deal with the cancer. My treatment is ongoing.

God bless you.

Shirley Edwards

Congratulations

To Dr. Jim O'Dell, who recently received the 2014 Lee C. Howley Sr. Prize for Research in Arthritis. The award is given by the national Arthritis Foundation and recognizes what it deems to be the most important scientific paper that will lead to a faster cure for arthritis and related diseases.

To Nick and Kendra Spath on the baptism of their daughter, Kennedy Marlene, on November 9. Kennedy's big sister is Emma.

Memorials

For Nedra Wilcox—Dee Maycock, Jack & Judy Stransky, Stan & Virginia Richards, Esther Auch Moedy, Annette Farquhar, Carroll Fleming, Ron & Pat Hein, Deanne Darrell Herweg & Denise Liljestrand, Daryle & Linda Johnson, Joanne & Dean Lubberstedt, Irene McGee, Michael & Laura Render, Dave & Becky Rose, Merle & Evelyn Schafer, Walt & Dorothy Sharp, Jane & Eldon Stokebrand, Dick & Pat Whiteman

For Amelia Biga—Dorothy Camenzind, Phyllis Solomon

For Juliamae Dunn—Barb & Mike Moriarty

For Kevin Gatzemeyer—Diane & Ed Klima

For Clarence (Bud) Tompsett—Maria E. Johnson

For Leland Tompsett—Maria E. Johnson

For Lou Marlene Pierce—Maria E. Johnson

Congratulations

To Ryan and Ashley Hedden on the baptism of their son, Hudson Ryan, on November 23.



Book Club

"The Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their December meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, December 13, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



in^Worship

Saturday Evening
5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday Morning
8:15 and 11:05 a.m.—Sanctuary
9:35 a.m. FUSION—Fellowship Hall

12:30 p.m. African National Service
(Nursery care available for all Sunday services)



Monday through Friday—If the Omaha Public Schools are closed because of inclement weather, the church office, preschool, and child care are all closed, and all meetings and other activities are canceled.

Saturday and Sunday Worship Service cancellation announcements:

1. Call the church office (402-556-2433)
2. Check the website (www.stpaulomaha.org)
3. Check the KETV, Channel 7 cancellation board.

in^Office

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