



Well, the first month of 2015 has passed! How are you doing on your resolutions for the year? I receive the United Methodist News email. One of the articles reminded me that there is one resolution that can help us with all of our other resolutions and dreams for 2015, it is PRAYER! The article is entitled, "Too busy to pray? Find more time in the New Year!" I have taken highlights from Joe Lovino's article. He works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Here are the highlights:

Make prayer a priority. Hoping to find time for prayer will likely fail. You have to make time.

Make an appointment with God. Set aside a specific time to pray. Put the appointment on your calendar and keep it.

Find a sacred place. Wherever it may be, home, work, or even in the car. Where is your prayer space?

Turn off the television. Remove any distractions and pray.

Pray with a group. It may help motivate you to pray.

Pray as a family. This is a great group!

Keep your Bible and prayer journal handy. People miss exercise classes because they cannot find their yoga mat or car keys! Keep your Bible, journal, or other tools where you can quickly find them.

Keep the conversation going all day. Short prayers through out the day are a great way to increase your prayer life.

Pray your calendar. Pray through what the day ahead will bring.

Use resources. The Upper Room provides helpful resources, the online daily devotions, online Living Prayer Center, and printed resources on prayer.

Experiment! There is no one right way to pray. The [Upper Room Living Prayer Center](#) offers examples of several ways to pray.

ENJOY IT! Change your mindset from *having to spend time with God to getting to!*

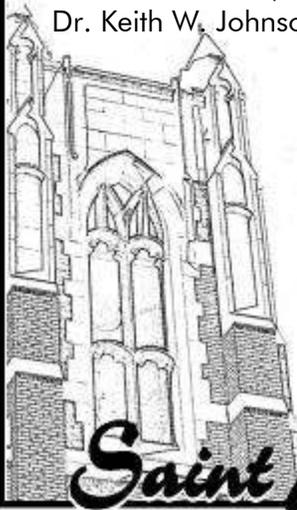
We do not have to do all eleven items listed, but choose the ones that may help you strengthen the #1 resolution that can help us with the other resolutions and dreams we have for 2015.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Keith W. Johnson, Lead Pastor

### Important Dates in February

- |                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb. 7</b>  | <b>"Whine, Women &amp; Song" Show</b> |
| <b>Feb. 8</b>  | <b>Chili Feed</b>                     |
| <b>Feb. 13</b> | <b>Veggie Tales Night</b>             |
| <b>Feb. 18</b> | <b>Ash Wednesday Worship Service</b>  |
| <b>Feb. 22</b> | <b>Meeting with Pete Festersen</b>    |



**Saint Paul Church**

5410 Corby St.  
Omaha, NE 68104  
402-556-2433

FAX 402-556-2372

Website:

www.stpaulomaha.org

E-mail:

saintpaul@stpaulomaha.org

Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson  
Lead Pastor

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  
Financial Secretary

Sue Bacon  
Communications Coordinator

Derek Wolfe  
Building Engineer

**St. Paul Child Care & Preschool**

402-556-3885  
Katy Smith, Director

**Community Counseling**  
402-551-6377

Mary Kate Hoffman, LMHP

The in<sup>S</sup>piration is published monthly. Information is due to the editor by the 19th of the month to be included in the next issue.

Editor: Sue Bacon

To contact the editor:

Phone ..... 402-556-2433

Email .....

sbacon@stpaulomaha.org

Address: .. 5410 Corby Street  
Omaha, NE 68104

# How Can Saint Paul UMC Help the Benson Community?

The following paragraph comes from a letter written by Dr. Dan Flanagan, our District Superintendent:

*“Invite members of your congregation to engage the community to gain an understanding of the collective vision for its future. It is important that the congregation gain as wide a sample of community input as possible and be open to the variety of perspectives they may hear. The task is to seek out people in the community: community leaders such as the mayor and city council, chamber members, school board members and school superintendent, active civic leaders, etc.; people who have lived in the community for a long time and people who have moved into the community only recently; people of diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds; people of different ages; male and female; and people of different faith communities. Ask each person the following question: Describe what you would like this community to look like? We would like to hear your concerns and dreams.”*

So charged by our Lead Pastor, Dr. Keith Johnson, and encouraged by the Church Council, Saint Paul Church leaps into 2015 eager to serve and be the representatives of Jesus Christ our community needs of us. All members and friends are invited to be part of a Community Engagement Opportunity with City Council President, Pete Festersen on Sunday, **February 22**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pizza Shoppe Collective, 6056 Maple Street (ample off street parking.) Food and beverage service will be available, so enjoy yourself as you hear Mr. Festersen detail the Omaha City Council’s plans for redevelopment of the Benson Business area between 58<sup>th</sup> Street and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street on Maple during 2015.

This invitation will be issued to the Benson Neighborhood Association and larger business community. Why is Saint Paul involved? It will be the job of those church members present to actively listen to how it is our church may aid in the process. Who would have thought just 5 years ago that Benson would be a thriving, socially active epicenter for the metropolitan community? All that change and significant growth causes great opportunity, but also stress and strain for those living in the surrounding area.

This is a fine time for those of us from Saint Paul to say, “we care...how may we help?” It is also a prime opening for witnessing to our faith and the transforming of this part of our world in the name of Jesus Christ! Plan to attend and bring a friend.

## Preview a Show— Right Here at Saint Paul UMC

The Whinettes (including our own Kim Alger) will be presenting a “Whine, Women and Song” concert at Saint Paul on Saturday, February 7, from 3:00 to 4:30. A \$12 ticket includes dessert and beverage with the show, which is a preview of the cabaret to be presented the next weekend at Chanticleer Theater in Council Bluffs. All proceeds will go to Saint Paul in appreciation for allowing us to rehearse here. Come hear the signature songs of the ladies from the 30’s to the 60’s, and enjoy an early Valentine treat!

Please call the church office with reservations by Thursday, February 5.

## Annual Exchange

The voices of Temple Israel's Kol Rina join members of the Saint Paul Folk Gospel and Chancel Choirs for a service exchange again this year. Music from the books of Psalms and Ecclesiastes, as well as liturgical prayers set in Hebrew and English, will be offered by the combined singers, Cantor Wendy Shermet and accompanist, Julie Sandene, at Temple's Shabbat on Friday, **February 13** at 6:00 p.m. and the following Sunday, **February 15** as part of the 11:05 service at Saint Paul. Members and friends are encouraged to attend either service and support this 10 year tradition. It is one that we have come to expect, but one that is truly remarkable. Our God is an awesome God!

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, a day of atonement (at-one-ment) for Christians and the first of forty days of spiritual fasting we call Lent. Our service marked by the imposition or receiving of ashes, will be held on **February 18** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This worship will include a time of silent reflection, heartfelt confession and joyful reconciliation. The combined vocal choirs and Joy Bells will be joined by the Solid Brass Quartet and David Schack, organist. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will also be celebrated.

## Single Service Celebrations

At the mid-December Church Council meeting, where an engaging dialog on worship opportunities took place, several speakers lifted up the idea of increasing the single Sunday service prospect. As part of the January 11 leadership gathering, the Worship Team acted upon a recommendation of the staff to increase those worship events to seven from the current three summer holiday services. So, by motion of the Worship Team and action of the Saint Paul Church Council, we are excited to announce these occasions for the entire Saint Paul faith community to worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 during the remainder of 2015.

New single services will include:

**March 01** (One Great Hour of Sharing) and **November 01** (All Saints Day).

Next, our current super summer Sundays continue: **May 24** (Pentecost/Memorial Day) **July 05** (Independence Day) **September 06** (Labor Day).

The Christmas/New Year holidays will allow many to observe three and four day weekends for several years in the future (2015-2019), so our roster of single services this year will include: **December 27** (First Sunday of Christmastide).

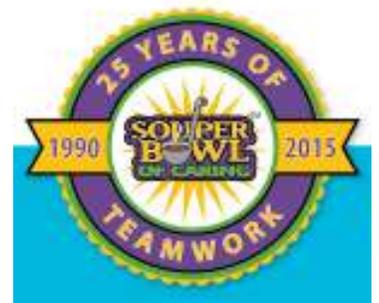
As usual, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on all services that coincide with the first Sunday of the month. As well, our Saturday evening service held in Roth Chapel at 5:00 will be offered every week regardless of the Sunday morning schedule. Together, we are the body of Christ!

## Saint Paul Youth and the Souper Bowl of Caring

On February 1st, our youth will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring.

While many of us will be watching the big game and feeding our faces, many in our community worry daily about how they will feed their families. Youth representatives will be waiting after each service (Saturday evening and Sunday morning) to collect your donations of canned goods to be taken to Pearl Pantry.

Cash donations are also welcome, but canned food is able to go directly to people in need through Pearl Pantry.



## NUMB 2015 Route Announced

The Nebraska United Methodist Bike Ride for Hunger (NUMB) is heading out west, June 27-July 1, 2015. The United Methodist churches in Ogallala, Sidney and Imperial, Nebraska, will be joined by the Haxtun, Colorado United Methodist Church as NUMB hosts. This year's ride will cross over into Colorado for an overnight stay in Haxtun. The last night will be in Imperial before heading back to Ogallala.

Registration has begun. Riders may register at [www.numbride.org](http://www.numbride.org) or download a registration form and mail it in. NUMB is limited to 150 riders taken on a first come, first serve basis.

The NUMB ride was started in 1996. Since then, the ride has donated more than \$716,000 for world hunger projects.



**NUMB**  
Will Bike for Food

Nebraska United Methodist  
Bike Ride for Hunger

## Young Adult Mission Opportunities

Young adults ages 18 to 30 can answer God's call to change the world through mission service. There are three programs especially developed to address critical issues such as HIV and AIDS, poverty, hygiene and migrants' rights:

- Global Mission Fellows—Two-year mission service, ages 20-30. During two years of service, you will experience community living while engaging in justice work and becoming an ambassador for mission domestically and internationally.
- Global Justice Volunteers—Two-month mission service, ages 18-30. Explore the links between faith and social justice as you work with local grassroots organizations during this 10-week mission opportunity.
- Individual Volunteers—Flexible mission service, ages 18 and up. Bring meaning to your vacation, semester abroad, or gap year. Put your faith into action while living in community with those whom you serve.

Go to [www.umcmision.org/gt](http://www.umcmision.org/gt) for more information about any of these mission opportunities.

## Angel Tree Gifts Appreciated

The Kuber Rai family (shown below) model some of the gifts they received at Christmastime from the Angel Tree. From left to right are Sunita, Samjana, Apshana, Tika Maya and Kuber.



**Human  
Relations  
Day  
Offering  
\$177.00**

## Help is Needed

Can you serve dinner at Siena/Francis House on Tuesday, February 3, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.? Call the church office, 402-556-2433, to sign up. If you would like to carpool, you can meet in Saint Paul UMC's north parking lot at 4:15 p.m.



## Directory Updates

Although the Church Directory on our website is constantly being updated with new addresses, phone numbers, etc. as the church office receives notifications, the Communications Team felt it was time to update some of the photos in the directory. There are several reasons you might want to update your photo:

- You have a new baby who isn't in the current photo.
- Your children have grown and changed since the last photo.
- You don't like your photo in the current directory.
- You are not pictured in the directory but would like to be.

Members of the Communications Team will be on hand to take updated directory photos on two weekends: February 7/8 and February 14/15. There will be a photographer from the Communications Team available after each of the worship services on those two weekends. There will also be copies of the current online directory available if you would like to check your address, phone number, email address, etc.

When the updates are completed, you will be able to order new printed directories. If you already have a printed directory and you only want the updated address and phone number pages, there will be no charge. If you would like a complete new directory with photos, they will be available for \$10.00.

## Tuesday Study Group—Bible Study and Tai Chi

The Tuesday Study Group will begin a Lenten study on Tuesday, Feb 17th at 10 am in the Library. Our text is "He Set His Face to Jerusalem" by Bishop Richard Wilke, the author and developer of the Disciple Bible Study series. We will follow Jesus' path through Galilee to Jerusalem and the culmination of his earthly ministry. This study will run seven weeks, completing on Tuesday of Holy Week, to allow participants to fully celebrate the Resurrection. Please consider joining us for the Tai Chi session at 9:30 in the Parlor prior to our study time so that your body can be refreshed by the gentle exercise and your soul fed through shared discussion to follow.

## Book Club

"The Meaning of Names" by Karen Shoemaker is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their February meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, February 14, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.



The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, February 28, at the Bohemian Café, 1406 South 13th Street. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at the Bohemian Cafe at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.

Some members of the Burundian Choir are shown below modeling their new uniforms.



The Prayer Shawl Group celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a night out on Wednesday, January 21.



Special Entertainment by  
The Children of Saint Paul Childcare

# Chili Feed

**Sunday, February 8**

4:00-6:00 PM Fellowship Hall

You're Invited to

**Bring and Share a  
Pot of Your Favorite Chili  
or a Delicious Dessert!**

Help us make our grocery list by letting us know by January 23rd if you plan to bring food to share. Contact Charlene Wilcox at (402) 650-1150 or [cwilcox@unomaha.edu](mailto:cwilcox@unomaha.edu)

## Free Will Donation

All Proceeds Will Be Directed by Saint Paul's  
Mercy and Justice Team for  
Upcoming Programs

*Saint Paul  
United Methodist Church*

54th & Northwest Radial Hwy.  
[www.stpaulomaha.org](http://www.stpaulomaha.org)



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Tweens Group

All 4th-6th graders are welcome to attend Tween Group from 10:45-11:30 am, 3rd Floor, Room 319.

*Come where a tween can be encouraged to remain a Christ-like Tween!*



## VEGGIETALES MOVIE NIGHT



Please join the Children's Ministry and Childhood Learning Center for a night of love, laughter, and a little karaoke.

Popcorn and Beverages will be provided.

Friday, February 13, 2015 6:00-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

NEW! Our traditional Sunday School Rally begins in room 313 at 9:30. Our children learn and sing songs such as The B.I.B.L.E. or This Little Light of Mine. We are empowering them through song to shine their light in our community each week.

Classes are 9:40-9:45 as follows:

Preschool (Ages 3-5)	Rm 254	2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Rm 313 (Music Rally Room)
K & 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Rm 302	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Rm 319 (Tweens Room till further notice)

Thank you for attending our first Veggie Tale Night in January.

thank  
you!

St. Paul Family, we need team members, teachers, assistants, and parents to help make our ministry a success. Our children's goal this year is to increase our active ministry roster to at least 400 children. We need all of you to help make our dream a reality!



# UMW NEWS

Featuring the activities of the United Methodist Women of Saint Paul UMC. Feb. 2015

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**FIRST MEETING OF 2015  
POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER!!!**

**ON FEBRUARY 4TH  
JOIN US FOR COFFEE AT 9:30 AM  
FOLLOWED BY A PROGRAM ON**

**The Bylaws of the United Methodist Women**

**Presented by our own  
Kathy Rice and YOU!**

***EVERY ONE IS WELCOME.***

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**HOSTESSES**

**February  
Naomi-Rebecca**

**March  
Ruth**

**ANNUAL SPRING  
LUNCHEON  
APRIL 11, 2015  
FEATURING THE  
DANCING GRANNIES**

**PRAY FOR  
DEACONESS  
JUDY POOLE  
BIRTHDAY,  
FEBRUARY 3RD**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**February 7 & 8  
Mini-Mart**

**February 14..  
Nebraska Ecumenical Legislative  
Day in Lincoln**

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

## Recent Hospitalizations

Sue Sherman, Maryann Newman, Harley Newman, Bob Griffiths

## Christian Sympathy

To Crystal Matthews and family in the death of her husband, George.

To the family of Betty Piper in her death.

To the family of Betty White in her death.

To the family of Eleanor Busse in her death.

To Frank Webber in the death of his brother.

To Deb Winslow and family in the death of her father.

## Congratulations

To Scott & Melissa O'Dell on the birth of their daughter, Cecily Elizabeth, born November 8.

To Hillary Alberts & Kieran Lyons in the baptism of their daughter, Grace Marie, on December 27.



## Stephen Ministry by the Numbers

**1:1** Stephen Caregivers/Ministers provide one-to-one care to people going through a crisis or difficult time. They meet with that person on an ongoing basis, offering distinctively Christian care and support.

## Memorials

For Betty White—Jim Boston, Bob & Patti Griffiths, Dee Maycock, Merle & Joanne Lubberstedt, Cheryl Bedell, Ronald Bruch, John & Dolores Kitterman, Jaylene & Michael O'Keefe, Bob & Elvira Frazer, Margaret Tigges, Paul Roth, Darlene Spencer Nash, Candy Stock, Lonnie Brown, Don Claycomb & Nancy Young, Joyce Christensen, Dan & Pam Michalak, Mick & Renee Kovar, Jim & Rhonda Gleason, Jack & Joann Collins, Patriss Wagner, Marilyn Ross, Pam Eischeid, Jeri Regan, Alan & Paula Urich, Bob & Marilyn Shanahan, Todd & Carla Boetel, Sarah Shirmang, Janet Tuttle, Dawn & Tom Reeves, Karen Franco, Sarah Weidner, Ken Kulish, Raymond & Mary Ann Kirchner, Vance Taylor, Clyde Arnold, Margaret Reed, Jane Ott, Shirley Jenkins, Jack & Claudia Griger, Carol Carnes, Jeanette Ekberg, Martha Ann Orr, Diane Hansen, Donna Holmquist, Bessie Swanson, Shirley Adamonis, Margaret Lageschulte, Angie Ramm, Frank Webber, Patricia Watts, Jean Schmid, Linda Hammer, Marian Bailey, Estelle Potter, Beverly Sibbersen, Linda Schmidt & Brian Joy, Linda Joy, Marilyn Claborn, Marilyn, Bob & Dan Haskin, Bill & Virginia Bruch, Tom & Mary Bruch, Robin Chell, Lori & Mark Braden, Bob & Miriam Nehe, Bob & Marilyn Boyd, Nick & Mary Stolzer, T. Hank & Susan Robinson. Mary Rich, Dick & Pat Whiteman, Shirley Higbee, Charles & Geraldine Tramp, Gerri Kampe

For Margaret Reid—Darlene Schrader

For George Matthews—Crystal Matthews, Jackie Pospisil, Cheryl Bedell

For Lynn, George & Sheila Larsen—Paula Johnson & niece Melissa

For Sue, Betty & Walt Cropper—Cynthia Fontenello

For Harry & Irma Henderson—Muriel & Ronald Cisar

For Mary Buono—Judy Buono

For Richard Orr—June & Tom Roberts



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## in<sup>W</sup>orship

Saturday Evening

5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday Morning

8:15 a.m.—Sanctuary

9:35 a.m. FUSION—Fellowship Hall

11:05 a.m.—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. African National Service

*(Nursery care available for all Sunday)*



**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](http://www.stpaulomaha.org))
3. Check the KETV, Channel 7 cancellation board.

## in<sup>O</sup>ffice

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

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

# Saint Paul in<sup>S</sup>piration