

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

January 2017



Pastoral Perspective

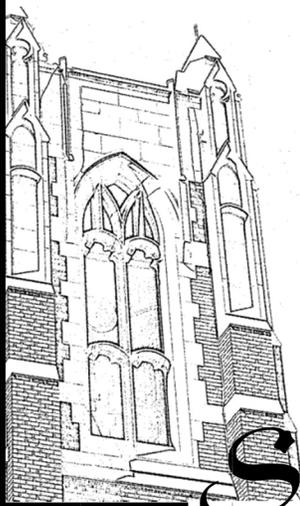
My first six months have been a whirlwind at St. Paul. I am still getting to know the flow of all the activities in the life of the church. St. Paul has a rich diversity of mission and ministry which is very engaging. Getting to know everyone's name and a bit about your passions in life has been a joy. Marjorie and I want to thank you for your patience in this regard and the many expressions of hospitality as we have settled in.

Regarding hospitality, that is our theme for the month of January. Jesus provided a radical hospitality in his ministry. He warmly welcomed the saint and the sinner, the Israelite and the Samaritan as well as men, women and children. What does radical hospitality mean in our daily life? What does it mean for us as citizens of America when the numbers of refugees around the world is at an all time high? These will be themes we will explore in worship and in our Fruitful Living small groups this month.

Our pulpit will be filled with great preachers in early January as Marjorie and I travel to India to visit our daughter, her husband and his family. In addition to Rev. Wheeler, we are happy to welcome home Rev. Susan Sanders, welcome back Rev. Carol Windrum (retired Peace and Justice Conference Coordinator) and Rev. Karen Jeffcoat (Conference Clergy Excellence Staff).

I will see you again on January 21/22 for worship and the 22nd as all the committees enjoy lunch and meet to kick off 2017.

Blessings, Pastor Scott



Health Ministry Team

The Health Ministry Team will meet on January 10th at 6 pm at our home over soup.

We are reorganizing and will pray and brainstorm in order to figure out the new direction we will take in 2017. If you'd like to serve on this vital team, please RSVP to Pastor Marta Wheeler, 402-306-9499.

9312 Decatur Plaza Circle

St. Paul in Spiration

Saint Paul Church

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402-350-3140

Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship
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Rev. Kathy Rice
Director of Stephen Ministry

Stephanie Rosenberger
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Sue Bobek,
Membership Secretary &
Administrative Assistant to the
Lead Pastor
402-556-2433

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Financial Secretary
402-677-4815

Sue Bacon
Communications Coordinator
402-556-2433

Derek Wolfe
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St. Paul Child Care & Preschool

402-556-3885
Katy Smith, Director

Community Counseling

402-551-6377
Julie Lord, LIMHP & PLADC

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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Stewardship

We had a successful Stewardship Drive this fall. Thanks to all that provided leadership in the campaign and thanks to all that returned a commitment card. Over 80 households increased their commitment to giving for 2017. The combined increase exceeded \$40,000.

As we planned our 2017 church budget we reduced expenses from previous budgets by nearly \$100,000. In addition, we infused the church budget with \$30,000 from the Child Development Center as they will be paying for some of their expenses that the church did in the past. As all these pieces come together in 2017 we will have a balanced budget that supports our mission and ministry.

With a balanced budget in 2017 the St. Paul Foundation will return to being a legacy endeavor that produces income for our work in Christ for decades to come. We give thanks to God for what came to pass in the fall and we pray for God to help us grow in our ministries of love as we work within a budget that provides for a sustainable future.

Committees Kick-off and Church Council

All the committees at St. Paul will gather for lunch at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 22nd.

The lunch will be served in the Church parlor. Following lunch committees will meet in available rooms throughout the church. Each committee is invited to develop or reaffirm their game plan for 2017. Following committee meetings the Church Council will meet in the Church Parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Fruitful Living Small Groups

You are invited to join a Fruitful Living small group in January. The groups will track the theme of worship which is the Radical Hospitality of those who are Disciples of Christ. Classes will begin January 8th with gatherings in the Susanna Wesley Reading Room on Sundays at 10:30 and 11:45 as well as Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Join every week or drop in when your schedule allows.

Preaching Schedule

Dec. 31/Jan 1	Rev. Susan Sanders and	Rev. Marta Wheeler
January 8/9	Radical Hospitality I	Rev. Carol Windrum
January 15/16	Radical Hospitality II	Rev. Karen Jeffcoat
January 22/23	Radical Hospitality III	Rev. Scott Shreve
January 29/30	Radical Hospitality IV	Rev. Scott Shreve

Worship Attendance

November-December 2016– 232 November-December 2015- 227

Remember to invite a friend, neighbor or family member to church.

January Worship

Our first worship experiences of the New Year 2017 will be to celebrate a Wesleyan renewal of the covenant on Saturday, **December 31** at 5:00 p.m. in the Roth Chapel. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in a single Sunday service, **January 01** at 10:00 in the Sanctuary and will include special music by Marta Brabec, John Hough, and Hank Robinson; The Choir and David Schack, organ.

The remaining four weekends of **January** we will return to the study of Bishop Robert Schnase's "The Fruitful Living Series," focusing on the practice of *Radical Hospitality*. The mid-month M & M service, Wednesday, **January 26** at 7:00 p.m. in Roth Chapel, will highlight the journey of the laity and "how St. Paul has helped me."

UMW Plans for 2017

I am excited to be President of UMW for the coming year. We will have two meetings on Saturday in the coming year to encourage those who work in the daytime to take part. The first is Saturday, March 4, and Mary Cave will speak about her trip to Guatemala to build stoves—ALL ARE WELCOME—even MEN. We continue to have good attendance at the monthly meetings and anyone interested is welcome.

Ann Herzinger, our Learning Leader, wants members to bring cardboard, or other boxes, medium to large, to the January 4th meeting. They can be brought decorated to say *we box out traffickers* or *we protect victims by boxing them in* or we will decorate them there. Ann will take a picture as part of United Methodist Women's campaign to Intercept Human Trafficking. This campaign targets the Super Bowl as much sex trafficking takes place at that and other large sporting events. It also takes place in Omaha and Lincoln and there will be a bulletin insert in January to lift up resources for intercepting traffickers.

We are having a spring brunch event April 1 with more details to follow.

A special thanks to Rev. Kathy Rice who has been very helpful in the transition.

Marjorie Shreve

PrayerNet

Each week the prayers that are lifted up in worship or are called into the church office are placed on a list which we call PrayerNet. Each Monday morning it is sent out via e-mail to members of the congregation who would like to lift these folk up in prayer. If you would like to receive the weekly PrayerNet please contact Sue Bacon, Communications Coordinator, at SBacon@stpaulomaha.org

United Methodist Men

Work, donuts, coffee and fellowship all in two hours! Next meeting will be at the church on Saturday morning, January 21st, at 7:30 p.m. We will scrap some walls and prepare them for painting. Bring scrapper and drop cloths if you have them. Please enter north door and gather by the church office for coffee and donuts. In at 7:30 a.m. and on your way by 9:30 a.m.

Conference Men's Retreat on February 18th.

Car pool from St. Paul, 7 a.m., to Camp Fontanelle. Breakfast, lunch and program for \$30. Return to St. Paul by 5:30 p.m. Great learning and fellowship opportunity. Contact the church office, 402-556-2433, for more information or to make a reservation.

Stephen Caregivers

This is a difficult season for many people. Please remember them in your prayers and your kindness. There are Stephen Caregivers who are willing to walk with you in your need.

Siena/Francis House

If you see these people, please give them a big "Thank You" for serving at Siena/Francis House in December:

Gerald Relford

Rev. Scott Shreve

Marjorie Shreve

Pearl Spicka

Vance Taylor

Jay Searles

Rev. Jerry Brabec

Thanks also to all the Teams that volunteered in 2016. Your participation is much appreciated.

Mercy & Justice Team

Blanket Distribution



The Pendleton Coat Company gave St. Paul UMC 40 blankets. James and Priscilla Randall shared these with the families in our Brundian congregation.

Habitat for Humanity House



The 2016 Habitat for Humanity house that was built with the help of many of our members is complete. A dedication was originally scheduled for Saturday, December 17, but was cancelled due to bad weather that day. The dedication will be re-scheduled for sometime in January.



**December United Methodist
Student Day Offering
\$452.00**

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. Each month this space will include a scripture passage and comment on mental health to encourage understanding and health. In addition to what is noted here, a good resource for further information can be accessed at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, www.nami.org or the Nebraska Family Helpline at 800-866-8660.

WE REJECT STIGMA AND DO NOT TOLERATE DISCRIMINATION- “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.”- John9:3

Mental illness is a brain disorder. It is an affliction a person does not want or deserve any more than any other type of illness. Antagonistic blaming and shaming prevents people from getting needed help. It leads to increased crises that turn into tragedies. Instead of resorting to research for objective analysis and problem solving, stigma keeps some stuck in false distortions which stifle progress. There is no greater percentage of violence among those who suffer from mental illness than there is among the general population. Anger is an emotion everyone has, whether well or ill. For many reasons unrelated to illness, some choose not to control this emotion, making life in society more and more threatening.

Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

Thank you so much for your support of the youth sponsored Cookie Walk on Dec. 10-11th!

We had a full kitchen that Saturday, working well together preparing ten dozen decorated cookies. And the tables were overflowing with cookies brought in by some of the best bakers at St. Paul. You are appreciated!

The Epiphany Party is on January 6th and we will help out with the games. If you make a good pot of chili and would like to share, please let me know!

We will meet on January 8th in The Roof from 4-6pm. This will be a good time for new members to join the group since we will be brainstorming about plans for 2017. Bring something to munch on and ideas for 2017!

We will leave early on January 14^h for The One Event in Salina, Kansas and plan to return by suppertime on January 15th . We had a fantastic time last year and look forward to listening to the bands, preaching, and comedians and playing the games that are set up as we grow in our faith.

Winter Jam will be on Thursday, January 26th at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs. This is a huge concert featuring many Christian bands.

All youth from grades 7-12 are welcome to join us for any of these events. If you'd like further information feel free to contact me at 402-306-9499.

Once again we extend our thanks for all of your prayers and support!
Pastor Marta Wheeler

Young Adult Gathering

All young adults at St. Paul and friends are welcome to the next gathering on January 23rd, Monday, at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. It will be an evening of games and planning for a spring mission project. If you are coming, please call the church office, 556-2433, so plans for dinner preparation can be made.

Book Club

“Anne of Green Gables” by L. M. Montgomery is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their January meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, January 14, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

ST. PAUL MERCY & JUSTICE TEAM PRESENTS



EPIPHANY PARTY AND CHILI COOK-OFF!

FRIDAY NIGHT
JANUARY 6
6-9PM

Join the Fun as St. Paul Teams Go
Head-to-Head in a Chili Throwdown!

The Victor's Recipe Will Be Featured at the
Annual Youth Souper Bowl Chili Feed on February 5

Drinks & Snacks Provided

Bring a White Elephant Gift
(\$5 value or Less) for Exchange

New Members



Samantha Grisso



Marjorie Shreve



The Pruitt Family

Back Row: Michael, Austin, Brianna

Front Row: Jason Sr., Hailey, Morgan, Gillian

UMW NEWS

Featuring the activities of the United Methodist Women of St. Paul UMC. January, 2017

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Marjorie Shreve
Vice President
Linda Mead
Secretary
Jackie Pospisil
Ass't. Secretary
Jan Walker
Treasurer
Pat Leslie
Advisor
Kathy Rice

Hostesses
January...
Naomi and
Rebecca
February....
Ruth

Continue saving boxtops and labels. Place them in the envelope on the UMW Bulletin Board.

LET'S START THE NEW YEAR WITH YOUR UMW FRIENDS!

On January 4 we will gather at 9:30 for coffee and conversation. Our program at 10:00 will be given by Brenda Bates speaking on Cross Training Electronics and Green Recycling.

Please consider making a PLEDGE this year. You may pay it at one time or monthly. Either way makes our yearly budget more manageable.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 1st General Meeting
February 11-12 Mini-Mart

Recent Hospitalizations

Peg Reed, Norma Parker, Ruth Konopik

Christian Sympathy

To Barry & Pat Butterfield & Family in the death of Barry's mother.

To Becky Sahl & Family in the death of her mother, Jo Sahl.

To Charlotte Schmidt in the death of her daughter, Patricia Marley

To Tony & Jan Villotta in the death of her sister, Patricia Marley.

To the family of Janet McDole in her death.

To Joanne Lubberstedt in the death of her husband, Dean.

To Shelli Schoettger & Bobbi Larsen in the death of their father, Dean Lubberstedt.

To Carol Carnes in the death of her husband, Doug.

Congratulations

To Tyler & Tammy Fausset in the baptism of their children, Landon William & Kennedy Ann, on December 18.



Memorials

For Mary Jane Lightner—Kay Smith, Jerome & Sylvia Kaiman, Virginia Grove, Lois Braymen

For Janet McDole—Jerry Brabec, Debbie & Jim Huntley, Steven & Jane Peterson, Dr. Thomas & Cynthia Grange, Matthew & Nancy Meinders, Vance Taylor, Charles & Kathleen Johnston, Mike & Sandra Lee, Michael & Pamela Weekly, Roberta J. White Miller, Tamera & Duane Jensen, Allan & Terri Maxwell, Bette L. Weekly

For Jeanette Ekberg—Thomsen Alfred Company Foundation

For Jo Sahl—Darlene & Fred Nash, J.C. Hindman, Cheryl Bedell

Honorarium

St. Paul Staff—Gladys Lantz

Thank You

Thanks, everyone, for prayers, cards, devotion—it was just lovely. Can't thank everyone enough.

Marge McCary

To the Women of the UMW:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of being your president for the last four years. Your trust in me is most appreciated.

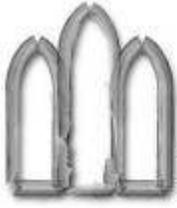
There were times of fun, hard work, disagreements and much fellowship shared. Thank you for the gift of the flowers and the past president's pin.

Peace,
Kathy Rice

Thank you for hosting music programs for children. Please continue to provide these experiences for young ones. We always enjoy the piano recital our child does at your church. Much appreciated!

Happy Holidays,
Matt and Erin Bonhan

(Over \$2000 in funds and piano maintenance was received during 2016 from visiting artists using St. Paul.)



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

New Year's Day—January 1

10:00 a.m.—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. African & Bhutan Services

Sunday Mornings—January 8, 15, 22, 30

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.



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.

Saint Paul in **Spiration**