

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

July 2017



## Pastoral Perspective

The Great Plains Annual Conference met in Grand Island in June with representatives from all the United Methodist churches in Kansas and Nebraska. We had wonderful worship, good fellowship and business decisions made in a prayerful attitude. A recurring theme throughout Annual Conference was reference to the upcoming special session of General Conference set for February 2019. The purpose of the special session of the General Conference will be "limited to receiving and acting on a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward," which was created by action of the 2016 General Conference.

The 32-member Commission was appointed by the Council of Bishops. The Commission's task includes examining paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

"The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Commission on a Way Forward and the Special Session of General Conference," Bishop Ough said. To stay updated on their work please search "The Commission on the Way Forward" on the internet or follow their work on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

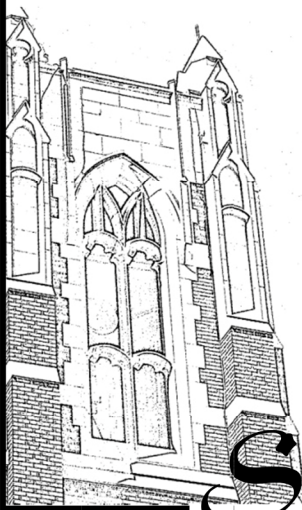
The decisions made at the Special Session of General Conference will impact every United Methodist Church. Our Church Council will be examining ways St. Paul might have conversation and dialogue on the issues that will be the focus of the special session of General Conference. Forums will be offered this fall and as we move through 2018 so St. Paul is ready to move forward with whatever results that emerge from the General Conference in 2019.

Blessings,  
Pastor Scott

## Wednesday Weekly

During the months of July and 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 beginning Wednesday, July 5, 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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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-

### 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 June 18th

Church Gifts & Income \$227,78 Church Expenses \$217,578

Child Development Center Income \$288,445 CDC expenses \$263,117

**Thanks for your support, prayers and ongoing participation!**

## Confirmation Class

The new St. Paul Confirmation class had their first meeting in June with nine students and their parents/guardian. The class is for students that have finished 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade as well as any older students who have missed in the past. The students and parents will meet next on July 16<sup>th</sup> 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. Celica-Cathedral, and Temple Israel during the year. Confirmation will be April 29, 2018. Please contact Pastor Scott if you have interest but missed the June meeting.

## Do You Know Someone Going Through a Difficult Time?

Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who has been struggling with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges? Our Stephen Caregivers can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and support they need to make it through the crisis.

If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with our Stephen Leader: Kathy Rice or our Pastor Scott Shreve. They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Caregivers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care!

## Brainstorm with Pastor Scott

Pastor Scott will host four gatherings in early July to brainstorm about how St. Paul might grow. What are your ideas? You are invited to the church parlor on July 6 at 6:30; Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 before your 10:30 worship or at 10:15 after your 9:15 worship in the church parlor; or July 15 at 9 a.m. in the church parlor. The Church Council will consider all the ideas at their meeting July 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Worship Attendance

January-June 2017 - 214

January-June 2016 - 232

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

## July 1 and 2 Worship

Independence Day weekend begins with Saturday evening worship at 5:00 in the Roth Chapel with guest preacher, Susan Sanders offering the message. She and her husband Harvey, are former members of St. Paul, while she served as our Associate Pastor from 2003-2005. Susan will be joined by her daughter, Kristy Brazda, who will bring the ministry *through* music. The fourth Single Sunday Service will be celebrated with worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., **July 02**. The Choir will be joined by the Solid Brass Quartet and organist, David Schack, with music and liturgy being reflective of the national holiday within the framework of servant ministry. We will be joined by the St. Paul Youth who will give witness to their recent mission trip experiences. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services.

## Hebrew Heroes & Heroines

July continues the "Hebrew Heroes & Heroines" theme, with preaching each week focused on an iconic Old Testament character. You are encouraged to learn more about Micah, Moses, Ruth, and Hulda on Wednesdays prior, as we meet to study at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. The weekend worship of July 08/09 will be visited by members of the Great Plains Conference Micah Corps. We look forward each year to the witness offered by this special team of young people, each one passionate about their witness to their faith through putting it into action!

## 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!

## Thanks to our Music Ministry Volunteers

While others enjoy the activities that summer brings, there are some who continue to block out time to rehearse, prepare, and hone their craft. We give thanks for the dedication of those volunteers who offer their musical leadership at all services of worship through the summer months.

### New Flag Dedicated

After the 10:00 worship service on Memorial Day weekend, a new flag was dedicated and raised for the first time.



## Preaching Schedule

July 1	5 p.m. in the Roth Chapel	Rev. Susan Sanders preaching
July 2	10 a.m. Single Service	Youth from Mission Highlights
July 8/9	Rev. Wheeler	Micah 6:1-8, "Micah Goes to Bat!" Supplemented by the Micah Corp speakers
July 15/16	Rev. Shreve	Exodus 3:1-12, "Blazing Bush Talks to Man"
July 22/23	Rev. Shreve	Ruth 4:13-17 "Landowner Marries Immigrant Woman"
July 29/30	Rev. Wheeler	Exodus 15:20-21 "Young Girl Outsmarts the Pharaoh"

## Undie Sunday – July 23

Please bring new underwear to the church on or before July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The underwear (underpants, tee-shirts, bras, and socks) will be donated to YES, Youth Emergency Services. Therefore underwear of all sizes for teens is requested.

Thanks,  
Your Mercy and Justice Team

## Health Kits Results

St. Paul donated 40 health kits along with \$45 at the Great Plains Annual Conference. Our kits brought the total of kits donated at the Great Plains Annual Conference in Grand Island the first week of June to 4,602. Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes. They are distributed around the world by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Thanks,  
Your Mercy and Justice Team



Marjorie Shreve delivered St. Paul UMC's health kits

## Help Build a House with Habitat for Humanity

St. Paul UMC will partner with 19 other faith organizations to build a house again this summer and fall. The build begins Saturday, August 5, and the house will be completed in early December. The location of the build is 3905 North 22 Street.

Elva and her two children will be moving into the house when it is completed. Elva met her husband, Emiliano, when she was visiting her brothers in Omaha in 2001. That same year she moved to the United States and started her new life with Emiliano. They had two children, Emiliano and Adela. In November of 2008 tragedy struck when fire destroyed their family home and took the life of her husband. He perished in the heroic act of saving their children from the fire. Elva had to start from the beginning, without her husband by her side. A friend recommended her to Habitat Omaha.

When they partner with Habitat Omaha, families purchase homes through affordable loans, making monthly mortgage payments for 20-30 years. Before closing, they contribute up to 350 hours of sweat equity working on Habitat Omaha construction sites. Soon to be homeowners also attend a variety of workshops to help prepare them for successful home ownership. At closing they make a modest \$500 down payment.

If you would like to help with this Habitat for Humanity build, please call Kent Bacon at 402-533-2208 or email him at [kbacon@abbnebraska.com](mailto:kbacon@abbnebraska.com) for information on signing up.



**June Special  
Offering for  
Missouri River  
District  
\$389.00**

## Help is Needed

Can you serve dinner to homeless men, women and children at Siena/Francis House on Tuesday, July 4, 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 St. Paul UMC's north parking lot at 4:15.

# 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](http://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

We are grateful for your prayers and financial support in the month of June that enabled our mission trip! We appreciate the help of Pastor Scott and Kaitlyn Waszak in volunteering to help sponsor this trip. It included work at Hope Iowa and Bidwell Riverside Center in Des Moines. We also had fun at Adventureland Amusement Park and Camp Wesley Woods United Methodist Camp, where we stayed. The meaningful, daily devotions were youth-led. Stories about the trip will be shared on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, at both worship services.

On Saturday morning, July 8<sup>th</sup>, we will help as needed at the Super Hero Run in the morning. This is a fund raiser for CASA. This nonprofit organization trains and supports volunteers to represent the best interests of victims of child abuse, neglect, and severe domestic conflict. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to be a voice for these children in court and in the community. The desired result is that children be placed in safe, loving homes where they can thrive.

We will meet at the church on July 24-25<sup>th</sup> for Omaha Outreach. On Monday we will work at the Youth Emergency Services Outreach Center from 9am-noon. On Tuesday we will be at the church, don't forget to wear your work clothes and bring your swimsuit and towel!

In the afternoon we will have a fun day at the lake that includes paddle boating, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming, and celebrating.

Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, is the Benson Parade. We may be walking from 10-11 am.

Each time we meet, the goal is to grow closer to God and to one another. Whether we are working side by side to help others, doing team building activities, or sharing meals, our connection to God and each other is increased. I am blessed to serve St. Paul and to work and play with young people that are maturing in remarkable ways.

Rev. Marta Wheeler

## United Methodist Men

All St. Paul men and their friends are welcome to gather on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. Come have breakfast at the HyVee on Cass Street. There will be sharing, devotions, and a review of upcoming events including 2017 Habitat Build.

## For Mercy's Sake

The Great Plains Mercy & Justice Ministry is once again sponsoring the Micah Corps, a 10-week young adult summer internship program. This experience helps young adults deepen their walk with God, learn about connecting their faith with social justice, and practice leadership skills throughout the conference. We welcome our Micah Corps Interns to worship on July 8 and 9.

## Monday Musings

Join Omaha Together One Community on second Mondays this summer to learn how we strengthen the fabric of our democracy by building strong public relationships in our congregations, communities and organizations. July 10: Engaging in effective relational meetings to develop relational power, at 7:00 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran, 3647 Lafayette Ave. Contact Pastor Scott for details.



## New Members



**Barrett & Danielle Main, pictured with their son, Elliot**

## Can You Find the Flowers?

Carla Stephenson, Marjorie Shreve and Lorraine Hahn have been planting flowers on the church grounds. See if you can find the following flowers in the garden outside the chapel:

- Borage—blue flowers
- Calendula alpha—orange flowers
- Husker Red Penstemon

Carla, Marjorie and Lorraine have also been busy planting flowers in other areas. Look in the courtyard and just outside the courtyard gate for more flowers, as well as under the big trees on the east side of the church.

## UMW Update for July

Tim Finkenscher from First Church gave an informative and inspiring presentation on Climate Justice for our June 4 meeting.

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!

Jan Walker is heading up our nominations team for officers/leaders for 2018. Contact her if you feel the tug to help move our UMW forward in the next year!

We do not meet in July or August but some will be attending Mission Universities in Kansas or Kearney to learn about the 3 Home Missionary Conferences: Alaska, Oklahoma Indian, and Appalachia and The Red Bird Mission in Kentucky as well as a spiritual study and climate justice. See the UMW bulletin board next to Rev. Brabec's office for details or google UMW Mission U Great Plains Conference. 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. Marjorie will be going to Salina, KS July 16-21.

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.

Marjorie Shreve, President

## Make Exercise More Convenient

Feel like you have no time to exercise? Remember, every minute of activity counts. Consider trying some of these tips:

1. Keep a pair of walking shoes at work;
2. Keep the clothes you need for a workout in your car; and
3. Keep a set of dumbbells near your television or phone. Then, when an opportunity for exercise comes along, you'll be ready!

To your good health!  
Health Ministry Team

ST. PAUL UMC 2017 SUMMER SERMON SERIES ~ 10 WEEKS ONLY!

HEBREW  
**HEROES AND HEROINES**  
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

# DISCOVERING GOD

**NOW SHOWING**

**JUNE 17/18 - AUGUST 26/27**

**SATURDAY  
5PM  
CHAPEL**

**SUNDAY  
9:15AM FUSION  
10:30AM SANCTUARY**

**STARRING: DEBORAH DRY BONES MICAH  
RUTH MIRIUM DAVID HULDA JACOB SOLOMON**

**( DISCOVER MORE ABOUT EACH CHARACTER  
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 IN THE PARLOR )**

**STRENGTH HOPE COURAGE HEART WISDOM POWER  
DEDICATION COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE WITNESS**

**ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH / 54TH & NW RADIAL**

JULY 2017

# UMW NEWS

<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b> ***** President Marjorie Shreve Vice President Linda Mead Secretary Jackie Pospisil Ass't. Secretary Jan Walker Treasurer Pat Leslie Advisor</p>	<p><b>UMW Retreat</b> <b>October 1 &amp; 2</b> St. Benedict's Center in Schuyler, NE. Check in at 3 pm Program starts at 4pm Cost is \$72 for double or \$80 for single. Meals included. Contact Marta Wheeler for registration.</p>
<p><b>HOSTING IN</b></p>	<p>No UMW meetings in July or August. Plan to join us again in September.</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b> Naomi &amp; Rebecca</p> <p><b>OCTOBER</b> Ruth</p>	<p><u>Mission Focus</u> Ann Farris—deaconess, Willow, Alaska Birthday—June 7 3550 W. Diamond Blvd. #405 Anchorage, AK 99502 capetownann@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>MISSION UNIVERSITY</b> <b>July 28-30 Kearney, Nebraska</b></p>	

## **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 Jim Bruhn in the death of his wife, Debra.

To the family of Ila Chatfield in her death.

To Estelle Potter and family in the death of her nephew.

## Congratulations

To Michael & Heather Butterfield on the birth of their daughter, Evie Katherine, on June 1. Evie's grandparents are Pat & Barry Butterfield.

## VBS Thank You

A very big "Thank You" to everyone who helped with VBS this year! The children who attended had a great time. They loved the dinners, the singing, the science experiments and the visiting animals.

## Adult Caregivers Support Group

In about 2008, there was a need perceived by some people in this congregation for support for those caring for adult family members in their home. We began with an introductory meeting to see if there was an interest and there were more than 20 people at that meeting. Since that time there have been folks meeting on the first and third Mondays to provide peer support and share experiences of caring for adult family members in the home. At this time there are only two of us who meet regularly but we would welcome others who feel the need. Providing care for adult family members in the home is a 24/7 need but the caregiver does need to find a way to meet their own needs at the same time. Our meetings are the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. and are generally in the parlor. For more information, contact Rev. Kathy Rice.

## Benson Farmers Market

The Benson Farmers Market opened its 10<sup>th</sup> season on May 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, July 29, at Farmhouse Cafe. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Farmhouse Café, 3461 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



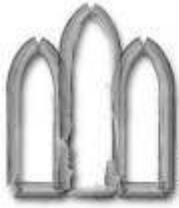
## Book Club

The Book Club will not meet during July or 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.



## Stephen Ministry in Action

*From a Stephen Ministry care receiver:* "I'm so glad I accepted my pastor's offer to match me with a Stephen Caregiver. I was reluctant at first, but my pastor was right: Having someone I could regularly meet with and talk to really did make a difference."



*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, July 2

10:00 a.m.—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. African & Bhutan Services

### Sundays—July 9, 16, 23, 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.

*Saint Paul* in **Spiration**