

# MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

## *Inspiration*

July 2019

### PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Greetings to you!

While I have not spent much time within the walls of Saint Paul, your congregation and pastors have already made a significant impact on my life and ministry and I look forward to “coming home” to #DoGood with you in Benson, in Omaha, and beyond. I remember meeting your lay members to annual conference over the years, reading your church newsletter when I served as Executive Director of United Methodist Ministries, and working with Saint Paul volunteers in Big Garden sites and at the Blue Flamingo and noting your commitment to mission and justice work. When I came to meet with your SPRC, I found the photos of many friends smiling at me from the wall of pastors outside the church office. I am eager to learn more about both the history and the current ministries of this congregation so we can together chart our course into the future.

As a kid, I always liked to have a map with me in the back seat of the car when our family went on vacations. I am confident no one in the front seat needed my advice regarding route selection, but I do remember being fascinated by the key in the corner of the map and the accompanying symbols that were listed in an organized manner in that little box and then flung across the map itself. Perhaps there were trees to mark state or national parks, tiny houses to mark rest stops, and all manner of jagged or dashed lines to depict roadway variants. Sometimes there were additional maps to be gathered, such as maps just for the location of wildflowers or public highway art or farmers markets. I learned that there can be more than one official map and sometimes it worked best to consult three or four at the same time to really understand what I was seeing out the window and what might be ahead.

I think churches are like that collection of maps. While there are facts and figures that are available to help describe a congregation, each member and visitor also has their own map – stories of favorite moments, people who have touched their lives, ministries that made a deep impression, worship services and traditions that have both helped people grow over time and have led to specific insights or offered comfort in times of distress. Each person also has their own item from the map’s key they find most interesting: mission trips, storage closets, community partners – there are many maps.

I look forward to learning more from you, the storytellers and map-makers of Saint Paul, so that together we can look towards the future from a place of wisdom and preparation and move forward in faith.

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.

**Sunday, July 07**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary**

**Single Sunday Service  
Celebration of Appointment  
Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede  
Reception to Follow Worship  
East Courtyard**

**Monday, July 22**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall  
All Church Potluck  
Pulled Pork, Table Service  
& Beverage Provided  
Last name A-M: Side Dish  
Last name N-Z: Dessert**

**Monday, July 22**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall  
All Church  
Charge Conference  
followed by  
Church Council**

**Saint Paul Benson**

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

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*Associate Pastor*

402-902-8545

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402-676-4751

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402-556-2433

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**Saint Paul**

**Child Development Center**

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**Community Counseling**

402-354-6891 x23

Julie Lord, *LIMHP & PLADC*  
Tabitha Jameson, *MA, LIMHP*

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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Omaha, NE 68104

# A Sustainable Future for Saint Paul: Ministry Budget Info!

As of June 19 - Income \$206,268 Expenses \$207,158

## Great Plains Annual Conference

Fourteen hundred plus clergy and laity gathered in Topeka, Kansas for the 2019 Great Plains Annual Conference from May 29 through June 1. Seeing so many fellow United Methodists all gathered together and praising God was so uplifting – Bishop Saenz’ message about working together to assure that all God’s children were made to feel welcome and respected in our denomination set the tone for the rest of the conference. As always, the music was phenomenal that evening and at all the gatherings. The main focus was on the importance of selecting clergy and laity delegates to the 2020 General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. It took several ballots over the 3 days, but finally 7 clergy and 7 laity delegates were elected to the general conference, and the same number were elected for the jurisdictional conference, as well as alternates for each. Our own Stephanie Ahlschwede was selected as delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference.

Thursday began at 7a.m. with the Missouri River district breakfast and updates by our District Superintendent, Chad Anglemeyer. We reviewed the budget, appointments and did an exercise of needs and plans led by Rev. Debra McKnight. This was followed by the laity session reviewing the conference agenda, resolutions and petitions requiring a vote, and reports.

On Friday, Mike Mather of Broadway UMC in Indianapolis gave an inspirational talk about finding others’ talents, gifts, power, and capabilities and finding a way to use them while empowering the individuals. He reminded us to practice hospitality and treat each other as family.

Reports are verbally received from all Great Plains committees, institutions and services. The budget and financial standing are important considerations and must be approved by the body. Pension and health plans for our ministers and staff are reviewed, changed via resolutions, motions or amendments. Our conference treasurer is frequently called upon to answer questions or give feedback.

We took care of the general conference business, and voted on resolutions submitted to the delegation. There were 16 resolutions and one petition presented this year. Nine of these were church closings.

The most important resolutions, we felt, were those that affirmed the position guaranteeing the same rights and privileges for all people in the United Methodist Church regardless of color, race, gender, sexual orientation, and class, and stated that the Great Plains Conference would resist the implementation of the traditional plan that was approved by the 2019 Special Session – both resolutions were passed overwhelmingly. Another resolution that was passed affirmed our conference’s commitment to being good stewards of the earth’s resources and our environment.

Next year’s conference will again be in Topeka and in Grand Island the following year.

Charlene Wilcox and El Siebert  
Saint Paul Benson Delegates to GP Annual Conference

## in Worship

Independence Day weekend brings more to celebrate at Saint Paul than just a holiday...we've got a new lead Pastor! The Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede begins her appointment with us on Saturday evening worship at 5:00 **July 06** in the Roth Chapel. Our Single Sunday Service in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. on **July 07** will also include a cookies and lemonade reception in the East Courtyard, weather permitting, following the service. Worship will offer music and liturgy reflective of the national holiday within the framework of servant ministry and the Sacrament of Holy Communion at both services.

Through our monthly communal offering we respond to being the body of Christ in a truly tangible way. Our second mile giving will help support the United Methodist Ministries of the Missouri River District. Administered by District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Chad Anglemyer, 57 churches offer many in the Omaha metro community and beyond a viable resource for hope and help through three important ministry opportunities: the Big Garden Project, Hispanic Ministries, and the Living Hope Mission Church.

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 ministry and leadership at all services of worship through the summer months. Bell and vocal choir members and the Fusion musicians never tire of giving. Guest organist, David Schack will grace our 10:30 service on **July 28**. Honor the membership vow to participate by your presence in worship this summer!

## Clergy Corner

(On staff at St. Paul Church since 1990, Rev. Brabec has been appointed to serve in an ordained clergy capacity since 2000.)

As part of our welcoming of the Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede and husband, Todd Wyatt, we will have an opportunity to gather as a church family around the table...a potluck supper table...on Monday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. Nothing says "welcome" quite like a United Methodist potluck! Garrison Keillor always said that, "the Lutherans could sing, but the Methodists (United) can eat." The potluck is a way of life for us...a casserole dish, some sort of Jello with fruit and a dessert, the makings of a shrine where all may gather to pay homage. A convert to Judaism, one of our sister altos in the choir of Temple Israel, says she misses the tradition of the Methodist potluck the most! The food, the fellowship, children running around where they shouldn't; it's all part of potluck tradition.



And business; there's always business to be included. On this night we will hear a motion from the Saint Paul Foundation chair to alter the membership bylaws. We will also hear a motion from the Staff/Parish Relations Committee to endorse Michel Ndagijimana, a lay preacher in the Burundi/African National congregation, so that he might officially begin the candidacy process toward becoming a licensed local pastor in the UMC. Following those two pieces of Charge Conference business, the Church Council will hear any reports of action since their last meeting. After a motion to adjourn, we will sing a song together and head for home...full, contented, and nourished in the love that the body of Christ has for each other. This is what being a United Methodist is about! God bless the potluck!

## Book Club

*Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens, is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their July meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, July 13, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, July 27,



at Longhorn Steak House. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship, or meet the group at Longhorn Steak House, 7425 Dodge St., at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome.

## Freedom from Hunger Food Drive

The Mercy & Justice team is sponsoring a Freedom from Hunger food drive for Pearl/Living Hope food pantry. They will be collecting non-perishable food items and paper goods for the pantry until Sunday, July 14. The items collected will be delivered to the pantry on Monday morning, July 15. Garden veggies would also be appreciated if they can be kept fresh until delivery.

Questions? Call Charlene Wilcox at 402-650-1150  
or email her at [chargrey@cox.net](mailto:chargrey@cox.net)

### The Ten Best Foods to Donate to a Food Pantry

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.Canned fish and meats         | 6.Pasta sauce           |
| 2.Peanut butter/nut butters     | 7.Shelf-stable milk     |
| 3.Healthy packaged soups        | 8.Whole-grain pasta     |
| 4.Whole-grain breakfast cereals | 9.Rice and other grains |
| 5.Canned or dried beans         | 10.Canned vegetables.   |

## Habitat for Humanity House

Below are pictures of the Habitat for Humanity house at 3167 Evans Street. Saint Paul Benson is part of a coalition of faith organization working on this house. If you'd like to be involved in the build, go to the Saint Paul Benson website ([stpaulomaha.org](http://stpaulomaha.org)) or call the church office at 402-556-2433 for more information.



June 2



June 20



June Special Offering for  
Peace with Justice  
\$436.00

## 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](http://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.

## Let's Walk!

Physical activity such as walking fifteen minutes a day can boost life span by three years and reduce biological age by about nine years. Studies show this small amount of walking grows our brain and slows memory decline. Activity reduces risk of disability in adults who already have osteoarthritis. Walking cuts risk of suffering disabling injury or illness and recovering from resulting disabilities. Time for us to get up, get out and walk!

To our health!  
Health Ministry Team

## A Thank You from Rev. Scott Shreve

Marjorie and I truly enjoyed the retirement reception hosted by the Staff Parish and Church Council. We deeply appreciated the meaningful conversations that were peppered with laughter, hugs and good memories. In addition, thanks for the many cards with well wishes. The warmth, love and grace of the Saint Paul congregation will live in our hearts for years to come. It was our honor to join each of you in ministry over the past three years.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Scott Shreve

## Photos from the Reception for the Shreves



## Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

Thanks to the youth that helped with the VBS last month.

By the time you read this the youth will have gone to Colorado for their youth trip. They will be sharing their experiences at worship services on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. It's bound to be an entertaining Sunday!

July 17-18<sup>th</sup>-Hispanic Ministries at Grace UMC in South Omaha has requested our help at the day program for neighborhood children. We will join in the fun of a hydrant party on Wednesday and keep track of kids at the Henry Doorly Zoo on Thursday. If you'd like to join us for fun at the zoo on the 18th, let me know!

July 27<sup>th</sup>-morning-Benson Days Parade-plan to walk in the parade. It'll be fun to hand out treats and to see everybody lining the route!

We are full of gratitude for each of you that support the youth of Saint Paul Benson!

Rev. Marta Wheeler



## Benson Area Refugee Task Force Update

Our next Clothes Closet is Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. 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. Email [benzonrefueetf@gmail.com](mailto:benzonrefueetf@gmail.com) if interested.

The HomeDishprogram continues strong.

Citizenship class continues on Sunday afternoons. We are in need of board members interested in refugees and also those interested in being on a committee to help plan our education classes, both citizenship and explore English as a second language.

### Saint Paul Benson 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](mailto: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.



POSITIVE  
SELF IMAGE  
& MATURITY  
WORKSHOP

Join us for a fun presentation  
by community health educator,  
Ms. Demetria Gerald.

BROUGHT TO YOU



SAINT PAUL  
Benson  
#DoGood

NW RADIAL & COUNTRY CLUB 402.556.2433  
STPAULOMAHA.ORG  
@STPAULBENSON

COMMUNITY INVITED!

WEDNESDAY  
JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>

6:00 - 7:00 PM

BENSON LIBRARY  
MEETING ROOM

RSVP  
MWHEELER@STPAULOMAHA.ORG  
BY JULY 21

LIGHT DINNER PROVIDED

The Church will be closed on  
July 4 and 5.

# VBS PHOTOS



## A VBS Thank You

I want to thank all the volunteers and youth for helping with VBS. Without your help this couldn't happen. Thanks again.

Stephanie Rosenberger  
Director of Children's Ministries

JULY 2019

# UMW NEWS



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

\*\*\*\*\*

**President**  
**Marjorie Shreve**

**Vice President**  
**Mary Stolzer**

**Secretary**  
**Connie Crawford**

**Treasurer**  
**Lorraine Hahn**

**Advisor**  
**Kathy Rice**

## Mission Focus

The Nashville Freedom School Partnership provides summertime literacy and enrichment activities for children in grades K-8. This is a national effort by Children's Defense Fund to boost pride and reading proficiency among low-income and at risk children.

## Mission Witness:

The Power of Learning was written and produced by the UCMOM in Nashville. This is part of our focus in the UMW.

## 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 5, 2019. Any contributions may be sent to Lorraine Hahn.

A slate of new officers should be selected and presented at the September 5 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.

Mission U will be held in Kearney at the Holiday Inn. The dates are July 26-28. The topics are Practicing Resurrection (Rev. Jerry Brabec leading) and Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission. This topic is in line with the Fresh Expressions sermon series. Two scholarships are available for \$100 each.

Other Mission U opportunities are a weekday study in Salina from July 14-18, and a Mini Mission U in Topeka on August 8-9.

Registration deadlines are July 1 for Salina and Kearney, and August 1 for Topeka.

We will miss the leadership of Marjorie Shreve but wish her well in further endeavors and enjoying her grandchildren.



## Christian Sympathy

To Marta & Dennis Wheeler in the death of Marta's father, Don Croson.

To Patti & Bob Griffiths in the death of Patti's brother.

To Jackie Christoph & family in the death of her father.

To Susan Arnold & family in the death of her mother, Clyde Arnold.

## Memorials

For Bill Cadwalader—Judy Buono, Gladys Lantz, Jack & Claudia Griger, Dee Maycock, Vance Taylor, Jerry Brabec, Lew Klanderud & Sue Adamson, Deb Kelley & Dick Fielding, Sue Bobek, Kent & Sue Bacon

For Shirley Edwards—Barry & Pat Butterfield, Kristin York, Jerry Brabec, Elaine Sickmann, Jon Fusselman

For Peg Reed—Barry & Pat Butterfield, Mrs. Donald Kramer, Dad & Janice, Gary & Verna Conroy, Sally Cihunka, Robert & Gail Dolan, Annette Farquhar, Mary Ann Kirchner, S., K. & T Knudsen, Dan & Pauline Leith, Monica Wieser, Dean & Darlene Anderson, Alice Lugert, Wanda Pickingpaugh, Sandra Kanger, Darlene Hicks, Dean Conroy, Thomas Mosre, Christina Schenk, Kathy Schenk, Jerry Brabec, Dee Maycock, Judy Buono, Jean Sugrue, Gladys Lantz, Kay Ball

For Kay Hodges—Jerry Brabec

For Clyde Arnold—Jerry Brabec, Pat Watts, Jean Bailey, Rolando & Amy Avila, Cynthia Fortenello, Stefan & Jan Biga, Pat & Barry Butterfield

For Carl Buono—Judy Buono

## 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.

## Hospitalizations

Judy Buono, Richard Hagerman, Patti Griffiths, Margaret Sutton, Rozanne Christensen

## Thank You

Thank you Pastor Marta and Pastor Jerry for Bill's Celebration of Life Service.

Thanks to the Ladies who served coffee and cookies.

Marilyn Cadwalader and Family



**TUESDAY, JULY 9 // 7PM**  
**HARDY COFFEE CO.**  
 6051 MAPLE ST.

SHARE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES  
 IN A SAFE PLACE AND LEARN  
 FROM LIGHT BEARERS  
 ACROSS THE AGES.

PURCHASE A CUP OF YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGE  
 THEN LOOK FOR THE POSTER ON THE TABLE.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT  
 MARTA VIA EMAIL  
 MWHEELER@STPAULOMAHA.ORG



## Stephen Ministry in Action:

From a Stephen Care giver:

"Through Stephen Minister training, I've come a long way in my spiritual walk. The skills I learned as a Stephen Minister are modeled on how Jesus related to people, so I can use them in many different settings to bring the love of God to others."



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## WORSHIP

5:00 PM

Saturday Casual  
Roth Chapel

10:00 AM—July 7

Sunday Combined Service  
Sanctuary

9:15 AM—July 14, 21, 28

Sunday Contemporary Fusion  
Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM—July 14, 21, 28

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

402.556.2433 [stpaulomaha.org](http://stpaulomaha.org)   @stpaulbenson