

MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

Inspiration

June 2019

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

We are fast approaching the yearly gathering of United Methodist clergy and laity from across the Kansas-Nebraska geographical area known as the Great Plains Annual Conference. Wikipedia states, "*an annual conference in the United Methodist Church is a regional body that governs much of the life of the "connectional church". Annual conferences are composed primarily of the clergy members and a lay member or members from each charge (a charge is one or more churches served by a minister under appointment by the bishop).*" With Saint Paul having three clergy appointments, we are able to send three voting lay members to represent the congregation at large. Again this year, El Siebert and Charlene Wilcox will serve as lay delegates to GPAC2019 and will deliver and load the UMCOR kits that many of you have donated. Unfortunately, a third lay delegate was not available.

A wide variety of reports will be heard including those on Retirees, Camping Ministries, Episcopacy Relations, Clergy Excellence and Lay Leadership Development and many others. There is inspiring worship, testimony by witnesses as to how their faith has been shaped by United Methodism, and time to hear opinions for and against the motions coming from the floor. The full report of the Board of Ordained Ministry will fill much of the Thursday afternoon session of the conference alone. This year members will elect clergy/lay delegates to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences with a series of ballot votes occurring throughout the four days of meetings. A workbook of resolutions will be methodically presented and voted upon, with impassioned pleas of support or dissent. The ordination service, held Friday evening, will grant full membership to the Order of Elder or Deacon to those ordained. As meetings go, it is a great opportunity to learn and experience firsthand the workings of our denomination.

The conference closes with the official "fixing of appointments" where, upon the final stroke of the Bishop's gavel, the Revs. Stephanie Ahlschwede, Marta Wheeler and Jerry Brabec will officially be appointed for one year of service to Saint Paul Church ~ Benson. Our thanks to Char and El for their gift of time and devotion to the cause!

Rev. Jerry Brabec

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.

At the request of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee and by the action of the Church Council, a retirement reception will be hosted for the Rev. Scott Shreve on Wednesday, June 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Members and friends of Saint Paul are invited to this opportunity to thank Pastor Scott and Marjorie for their three years of leadership among us.

Saint Paul Benson

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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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A Sustainable Future for Saint Paul: Ministry Budget Info!

05-21-19 Income \$166,986 Expenses \$170,260

Council Connection ~ Minutes of May 13

The Saint Paul Church Council met on Monday, May 13. Highlights of the meeting included discussions on our application to join the Reconciling Ministries Network, "welcome" activities for our new lead pastor, and the need for changes to the Saint Paul Foundation by-laws.

Three things need to be accomplished for Saint Paul to complete its application to join the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN): a statement, a financial donation and a group photo.

The statement must clearly and boldly celebrate and affirm people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Following discussion at the Council meeting and later consultation with the RMN Regional Director, Saint Paul Benson's statement is: ***"With God's love as our foundation, we celebrate friendship with all of God's people, affirming all sexual orientations and gender identities. Together, we will seek justice for all and do good in our community, nation and around the world in the name of Jesus Christ."***

A further requirement of RMN membership is a suggested donation of \$500. To offset the cost, watch for special "Rainbow" baskets available in each worship space. Your donations are welcome and will help replenish our general funds. A group photo of Saint Paul members also needs to accompany our membership application. A photo will be taken at the end of our "Single Service Sunday" worship hour on Sunday, May 26. Wear something colorful and be ready to smile!

John Fulmer, Foundation Chair, informed the Council of a problem he encountered when attempting to move the funds to a new management firm. Changes requiring the call of a special Charge Conference will need to be made to the Foundation by-laws to meet the needs of the current Foundation Board. Plan to attend on for Monday, July 22; all Saint Paul members are invited to attend, discuss and vote.

We will officially welcome the Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede as our new Lead Pastor on July 1. A cookies-and-punch reception following our "Single Service Sunday" worship on July 7 will give you the opportunity to meet and greet her. Plans are also underway to add a potluck to the dinner hour prior to the aforementioned Charge Conference on July 22. Stay tuned for more details!

El Siebert and Charlene Wilcox will be attending the upcoming Great Plains Annual Conference where El will be running for a position as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. El invited interested parties to view Annual Conference plans on the Great Plains Conference website: www.greatplainsumc.org

All Saint Paul Benson members and friends are welcome to attend Church Council meetings. They are regularly scheduled for the third Monday of odd-numbered months. Watch the Inspiration, email blast or website for more information!

in Worship

June worship is a time to reflect on all things summer...although the season doesn't truly arrive until the fourth weekend! We welcome the Rev. Susan Sanders, retired, and the Rev. James Parrish, Chaplain at Omaha's Offutt Air Force Base, as our guest preachers for the first three weekends of the month. They will be bringing special messages while Pastor Marta "climbs away" on a once in a lifetime Alps vacation!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed Ascension weekend, June **01/02**. The Festival of the Ascension marks the end of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, the days recounting Jesus' appearance to the disciples after the resurrection.

June **08/09** is the celebration of Pentecost, the birthday of the church. This is the weekend you are encouraged to wear red (not hard to do in Nebraska!) to signify the flaming tongues of the Holy Spirit descending upon those early believers. We will mark the festival with songs of the Spirit at all services and David Schack, organist and the Solid Brass Quartet at the 10:30 service. Joy Bells offer their final ring for the season on June **16/17**.

Pastor Marta will bring us a mountain top inspired sermon on her first weekend home, June **22/23**, which is just in time for the annual Youth Mission trip to begin. Those experiences will be relived at all services June **29/30**. Be in worship this summer...if not at Saint Paul Benson, then wherever you may find yourself!

Our concluding mid-month M & M service held Wednesday, **June 19** at 6:00 p.m. will continue the focus on Spiritual Disciplines led by your clergy. The discipline of music will guide us as we observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion as part of our time together in the Roth Chapel. As always, there will be M & M's a plenty!

Notable Nineties Enjoy Brunch, Fellowship

The Congregational Care Team provided a brunch on Saturday, May 11, for members who are at least 90 years old, or will be soon. The theme was *Gone With the Wind*, in celebration of its 80th anniversary.



Front Row: Howard Roberts, Clyde Arnold, Jean Schmid, Frank Webber, Joyce Black, Mary Rich. Back Row: John Pestal, Bob Griffiths, Ed Klima.



Maryilou Dohe dressed in keeping with the *Gone With the Wind* theme.

The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, June 29,



at Malaras. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship, or meet the group at Malaras, 2123 Pierce Street, at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome.

Book Club

Americanah, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their June meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, June 8, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

Habitat for Humanity House

St. Paul is part of a coalition of faith organizations working to build a Habitat for Humanity house at 3167 Evans Street. The build has started and will continue on the weekends through August. All skill levels of volunteers are welcome and needed.

How do I volunteer? Go to the volunteer registration link, <http://cerv.is/m?0119gF9oLgR>, to sign up and select the date(s) you would like to work.

If I volunteer, will there be an orientation? Yes! The day of your volunteer date, a staff member will greet you, share important information about the mission and work of Habitat for Humanity of Omaha and provide an overview of on-site safety.

Do I need construction experience to help build? No! It's great if you have construction skills, but certainly not necessary. Your crew leader for the day will ensure that you receive training for the task at hand. Before you know it, you will pick up handy new skills you can bring home with you or use next time you're out on the Habitat build site.

What kind of work will I do at the construction site? Though we try to let you know what you'll be doing before your work day arrives via email, sometimes weather and other factors make predicting construction tasks somewhat a challenge. Our construction team ensures you are comfortable with the job you are assigned. If you are unable to complete a task or feel uneasy, tell your crew leader—we're happy to find a job that better suits you. Some examples of what you might do include:

- Framing and siding
- Installing insulation & drywall
- Landscaping
- Painting
- Light cleaning
- Loading & unloading materials

Other questions? Call Kent Bacon at 402-533-2208 or email him at kbacon@abbnebraska.org.

Flood Relief Update

So far, \$586,133 has been contributed to the [Great Plains Disaster Relief Fund](#) according to the Great Plains conference website. Also, Disaster Relief Coordinator Rev. Hollie Tapley said as of the first of May 45 Emergency Response Team members (ERTs) had volunteered 10,080 hours to serve those damaged by the flood. She said 47 homes have already been cleared, with a waiting list of more than 70 to complete.

"These ERTs have done terrific work and have represented you well as they serve to make a difference in the lives of these individuals. Their hard work and dedication allows me to connect with city/county officials, emergency managers, Red Cross and FEMA as planning for long-term needs are being put into place," Tapley said. "All these agencies are just like us United Methodist, we have to have a series of meetings to accomplish anything!"

"Recovery is going to be long – a process that is going to take patience and understanding. Please continue to lift our neighbors in Nebraska in your prayers. Pray for your ERT's – for strength and safety while they are working."

Check www.greatplainsumc.org/great-plains-flood-relief to stay up to date on flood relief efforts.



May Special Offering for
Native American Ministries
\$362.00

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, the Nebraska Family Helpline operated by Boys Town at 800-866-8660 or the Community Counselors at St. Paul Church, Julie Lord and Tabitha Jameson, 402-354-6891 x 23.

A Word from the Health Ministry Team

We have more control over our destiny than we realize, even if we have family history of disease. Think of our genes as a map that shows many different possible roads leading to different possible outcomes. We still get to choose our path. Every healthy habit makes us less vulnerable to family history. And no drug can replicate benefits of an active lifestyle. So let's walk everyday and eat more fruits and vegetables!

Here's to Your Health!
Health Ministry Team

Church Member Directory Questions and Answers

How do I access it? The directory is on the website (www.stpaulomaha.org)—that allows us to keep it current. You can access it by clicking on the church member directory tab on the home page. You will need a password, and you can get that by calling the church office at 402-556-2433. You can also access it through an app that is available for your smart phone. Again, if you call the church office, we can email you the information to get the app. The app is especially handy because you can place calls to other members, send them a message or email them through the app.

What if I would like a printed copy? Call the church office and place an order. A copy of the current directory will be printed for you within a few days.

What if I don't like my picture, or my children have grown and changed since our picture was taken? You can bring a picture to the office, email one to sbacon@stpaulomaha.org or just come into the office and have one taken.

How is the directory kept current? The church office relies on you to help us keep it current. Have you gotten rid of your landline? Has your email address changed? We need to know.

Clergy Corner—Rev. Marta Wheeler

The anticipation of welcoming our new lead pastor, Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede, grows as her start date of July 1st comes closer.

I first knew of Stephanie while attending a Women's Clergy Conference that was held in the Kansas City area in the year 2006.

Although young, she was already an experienced, well-known clergy person in the Nebraska Conference, while I was just beginning my new vocation as a Licensed Local Pastor.

Over the years, no matter where I've seen Stephanie, she has shown a high level of energy and passion. She has a huge heart and works tirelessly for mercy and justice issues.

This month I'll be making my first overseas trip. My husband never wanted to leave the United States, but our children have traveled extensively.

So three years ago, when my daughter suggested a mother-daughter trip to the Alps, I jumped on it!

I'll be praying for my St. Paul family, and upon my return will have fresh stories to share of our adventures.

Thank you, St. Paul, for being a generous and loving church.

Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

The youth gathered at the Dan and Charlotte Rasmussen's home for a fun time.

During the first week of June we appreciate the willingness of the youth in helping to staff the Vacation Bible School. The younger children listen well to the 'older' kids.

Plans are being finalized for the youth mission trip to Denver, Colorado. Amtrak tickets have been purchased, places to stay have been reserved, and fun activities scheduled. The Denver District UMC office has been helpful in scheduling mission work for our group. We will be sharing at all three worship services the weekend of June 29-30th. Please come to listen and hear all about our trip!

We truly appreciate all of the financial help you've provided, and ask for your special prayers as we take off at 11 pm on June 23rd until we return at 5 am on the 27th.

We had so much fun together last year that Hispanic Ministries has asked us to return and help with the children on July 17th and 18th. They hold a program similar to VBS for the entire month of July for neighborhood children that need a place to go each day. Kudos to Grace UMC and everyone that helps provide support!

Rev. Marta Wheeler
402-902-8545



A colorful poster for a Vacation Bible School event. At the top, the word 'ROAR!' is written in large, 3D, orange and yellow letters. Below it, the tagline 'Life is Wild ~ God is Good!' is written in a white, sans-serif font. The main text reads 'JOIN THE FUN OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT SAINT PAUL!' in black, followed by 'JUNE 3 - 5' in large blue letters. Below that, it says 'EACH NIGHT: DINNER 5-6 PM; ACTIVITIES 6-8 PM' and 'KIDS PRE-K AGE 4 THROUGH 5TH GRADE WELCOME!'. A blue banner at the bottom of the text area says 'CALL TO SIGN-UP 402.556.2433'. The logo for 'SAINT PAUL Benson' is at the bottom left, with the hashtag #DoGood below it. At the very bottom, it says 'NW RADIAL & COUNTRY CLUB' and includes social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the handle '@STPAULBENSON'. On the right side of the poster, there are illustrations of a giraffe and a lion's head.

Photos from Church-wide Clean-Out Day



Some people purged in the attic.



Others reorganized the kitchen.



Others worked on the church grounds



Books of pictures brought back memories

Benson Area Refugee Task Force Update

Our next Clothes Closet is Saturday, August 24th. 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 bensonrefueetf@gmail.com if interested.

We gave 2 scholarships of \$1000 each to refugee students attending Benson High School on their awards night May 1. One recipient was of the Karen community and will study nursing. The other was a South Sudanese student who came here without family and is pursuing higher education.

The HomeDishprogram continues strong and the last dinner was Burundian.

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.

Thanks to those contributing to BART through Omaha Gives!

JUNE 2019

UMW NEWS



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Marjorie Shreve

Vice President
Mary Stolzer

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Mission Focus

India. Opportunity School
Special Education for
children—educating and job
skills training for 145 children.

Mission Witness:

We have a VOICE, one
woman said in Asian Young
Women's Leadership
Development Seminar. Even
though women have advanced
receiving education and jobs,
we still have many hurdles to
overcome in order to have
equal leadership opportunities.

Box Tops for Education

Save for Rose Hill
Elementary School

UMW General Meeting
Wednesday, June 5, at 9:30 a.m.
in the Parlor.

The speaker will be a guest from
Youth Emergency Services.
We hope you can attend.

President's Update

Thanks for all who enjoyed the UMW Spring luncheon. We sold 96 tickets and all had a wonderful program by Kim Stokely and a luncheon.

Thanks also for the May Mini-Mart support!

Our June speaker is from Youth Emergency Services, supported by several members who volunteer at Tip Top in Benson. It is Wednesday, June 5 in the Parlor, all our welcome at 9:30 for fellowship and 10:00 for the speaker. We do not meet in July or August.

Some will be attending Mission U in Kearney July 26-28 at the Holiday Inn. The spiritual study leader is Jerry Brabec and the book is Practicing Resurrection. For those working on Fresh Expressions this book has some food for thought. The other study is Women United for Change, 150 Years in Mission and tells the history of United Methodist Women. Copies of both books are in the Parlor on the UMW shelf for borrowing.

Marjorie Shreve, President



Hospitalizations

Dorothy Hallstrom, Margaret Sutton, Bill Repair

Christian Sympathy

To the family of Gloa Shives in her death.

To Marilyn Cadwalader and family in the death of her husband, Bill.

To the family of Jane Crannell in her death.

To LaRue Edwards in the death of his wife, Shirley.

To Karen & Dave Scurlock and family in the death of Karen's mother, Shirley Edwards.

To the family of Peg Reed in her death.

Memorials

For Mary Buono—Judy Buono

New Member



Susan Dimmitt



Stephen Ministry in Action:

From a Stephen Care giver:

"Since becoming a Stephen Minister, I've experienced a richness of God's grace beyond anything I could have imagined. To truly listen with the ears of Christ, to see others through his eyes, to know his heart, to see Jesus working through me to touch the life of someone else is a window into heaven."

William

Congratulations

To Nick & Rae Wilcox in the birth of their daughter, Everlee Ruby, born April 5. Everlee's grandparents are Greg & Charlene Wilcox.

To Joshua & Brittany Davis in the baptism of their daughter, Isabel Etta, on April 7. Isabel's grandparents are Bill and Dee Davis.



To Jason & Zelda Cummings in the baptism of their daughter, Harper Zosima, on April 27.





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OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68104

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WORSHIP

5:00 PM
Saturday Casual
Roth Chapel

9:15 AM
Sunday Contemporary Fusion
Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM
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   @stpaulbenson