

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

March 2017



Pastoral Perspective

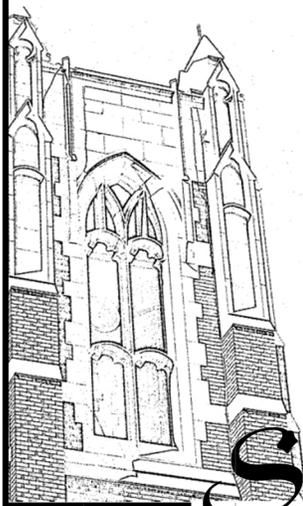
The Lenten season begins the first day of this month with our Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. This season guides us to the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday and then the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter (April 16). It is a six week period that reminds us of Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem.

Jesus had many options at his disposal. He could have continued his magnificent ministry of teaching and healing in Galilee far removed from his fierce opposition in Jerusalem. He might have traveled to the Mediterranean coastal cities to share his message as the Apostle Paul did in years to come. He could have even married, had a family, and lived the quiet life of a carpenter. Yet, Jesus continued to discern the will of God for his life with the attitude of "not my will but thy will be done." This led him to go to Jerusalem, come face to face with both religious and political opposition which resulted in his crucifixion. Yet, new life emerged from that tragic event; new life for Jesus and for you and me.

In the Lenten season we realize that we each have many options at our disposal. Knowing that blessing, we need to think about how best to use our time, energy and resources. As we remember Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem during this Lenten season we know that we too must turn to God to discern the best possible use of our time and talents. Just like Jesus we can pray "not my will but thy will be done." As we follow God's will, especially in the hard choices, we know that goodness will emerge as it did for Jesus.

I invite you to attend worship throughout the Lenten season because it is the most advantageous place for engaging the Spirit, discerning God's direction, and living fruitful lives as followers of Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott



Three-Part Lenten Study
Wednesdays, March 8 & 29 and April 5 at 7 p.m.
Hosted by Rev. Shreve in the Parlor
Reflecting on our Mission Statement
(noted on the top of this page).
Its Biblical foundation.
What it has meant for us.
What it might mean for us.

St. Paul in Spiration

Saint Paul Church

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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- 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.

-Here is the good news through February 15th

Church Gifts & Income were \$62,728 and Church Expenses were \$54,197.

Child Development Center Income was \$72,056 and CDC expenses were \$59,231.

These totals put us in good shape as we prepare and save for the first triple payroll month that comes in May this year.

Thanks for your support, prayers and ongoing participation!

Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council meeting will be March 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Everyone is invited to attend.

Young Adult Gathering

All young adults at St. Paul and friends are welcome to the next gathering on March 27, Monday, at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. It will be an evening of discussion 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.

New Chronic Illness Support Group

A new support group for cancer patients and others with chronic illnesses and their caregivers will meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 2, at 4:00 p.m. It will be an informal gathering – a time to share experiences and support each other. If you would like more information, call Shirley Edwards at 402-572-7379 or email her at larueedwards@aol.com.

Keeping Up with the Conference

To receive messages from Bishop Saenz and to stay up to date on news happenings around the Great Plains United Methodist Conference, please sign up for the weekly GPconnect email newsletter at <http://gp-email.brtapp.com/subscribe>, or send an email to rdelisi@greatplainsumc.org.

Follow the conference on Facebook so you see videos and receive information as it becomes available, as well as get to know people from around the conference. Like the conference's Facebook page by going to <https://www.facebook.com/GreatPlainsUMC>.

Worship Attendance

January-February 19, 2017 - 203 January-February 19, 2016 - 211

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

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 **March 01** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This worship will include a time of silent reflection, heartfelt confession and joyful reconciliation. The Choir 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 Celebration

According to Mary Fairchild, "Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. The Lenten season is a time when many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection. During the six weeks of self-examination and reflection, Christians who observe Lent typically make a commitment to fast, or to give up something—a habit, such as smoking, watching TV, or swearing, or a food or drink, such as sweets, chocolate or coffee. Some Christians also take on a Lenten discipline, such as reading the Bible and spending more time in prayer to draw nearer to God."

The first weekend of Lent and the second of seven scheduled single Sunday services will be **March 05** as we celebrate in one great hour of sharing, our connectional opportunity supporting the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Our communal offering by the same name is the denomination special that funds the administrative costs of all the global ministries of the United Methodist Church. That means that 100% of offerings designated to a UM cause are truly able to be used by that particular ministry. Special music for the 10:00 a.m. service will be offered by the St. Paul Fusion musicians. These incredibly talented players grace worship each week during the 9:15 service.

M&M Continues

Our monthly M&M service to be held Wednesday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. continues to feature laity reminding us of "how St. Paul has helped me on my spiritual journey." We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion as part of our time together in the Roth Chapel.

Preaching Schedule

March 4/5	Lent I	Choosing the Best Options Matthew 4:1-11, Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Rev. Shreve preaching
March 11/12	Lent II	Born Again John 3:1-17 and Isaiah 6:1-8	Rev. Shreve preaching
March 18/19	Lent III	Truth Touching our Hearts John 4:5-42	Rev. Shreve preaching
March 25/26	Lent IV	John 9:1-41	Rev. Wheeler preaching

All Church Pancake Breakfast to Benefit UMCOR

Sunday, March 5, 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-Noon
(the hour before and the hour after the 10:00 worship service)



\$5 per plate includes sausage, beverage and all-you-can-eat pancakes

NEW SPACE NEW POSSIBILITIES

Hopefully you have your calendars marked for this Eighth Annual OTOC Fundraiser being held April 1 from 6:00 to 9:30. We are moving to Kaneko at 1111 Jones Street - more space and great parking. The city lot across the street only charges \$1.00 an hour so won't wreck your wallet even if you stay for the whole event. And it will be much easier for you to get your Silent Auction Treasures to your car!

Cost is \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at the door. Tickets will be available at Saturday and Sunday services March 18/19 and March 25/26. You don't have to wait till then for your ticket. Call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599 and she will let you know which members already have tickets on hand for you. As previously, tickets can be picked up at the door for \$25.00 if you make a reservation. A fun evening with Cash Bar, Appetizers, Dessert and Live Music.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OMAHA

The day's theme is "Be Bold For Change" and it is being held Saturday, March 4, at UNO's Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, 6400 South, University Drive Road North (North of the clock tower) from 11:30 to 4:00. The event is free.

Keynote Speaker is Anna Brewer on Human Trafficking. Other topics are "Native American Sisters", "Human Library", "What is Discrimination?" and "Your Voice Matters". There will be Community Village Tables you will want to visit.

Health Kits for UMCOR

The Mercy & Justice Team is sponsoring a drive to assemble health kits for UMCOR. 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. The kits include items such as a hand towel, washcloth, bandages, soap, and other items. The cost to assemble a whole kit is approximately \$12.00; monetary donations will also be accepted.

Exact specifications for the health kit items can be found in the What's New section of St. Paul UMC's website, www.stpaulomaha.org. You may also pick up a sheet of specifications in the church office.

Easter Lilies

The Worship team is taking orders for Easter lilies to decorate the worship areas. Please use the form below, checking whether the lily is in honor of a person or in memory of someone who is deceased.

You can bring or mail the form to the church with your check.

We will display only 25 plants, but all proceeds will be designated to Mission Shares.

I would like to furnish ____ Easter Lilies @ \$10 ea.

In ____ honor ____ memory of:

In ____ honor ____ memory of:

From: _____



February Special Offering
Guatemala Stove Project
\$1363.50

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 operated by Boys Town at 800-866-8660.

WE FORGIVE OURSELVES AND REJECT GUILT- *“As far as the east is from the west so far has God removed our transgressions from us.”—Psalm 103:12*

It is difficult to cope with a disease that is as misunderstood as mental illness. It is not always possible to get precise diagnoses for the most effective treatment. If things don't turn out the way we had hoped, it is best to learn from experience and continue looking for better solutions. Self-blame leads to a draining downward cycle of negativity. Immediately admitting wrong, forgiving mistakes, renews energy for creative perseverance to have better outcomes.

Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

Thank you so much for your support of the Chili Feed! \$513 and the grocery bill were donated!!

We appreciate the work of the Mercy and Justice Team and also Rev. Kathy Rice in this project!

The Youth plan to participate in the All-Church Bowling Party on Saturday, March 4th at Maplewood Lanes. The cost is only \$4.49 per game you play, and it will be a very good time!

We will meet on March 12 and 26th in The Roof from 4:30-6 pm.

We plan to go to the movies on March 19th.

We are close to announcing the destination of our summer youth mission trip! We have brainstormed about where we'd like to go, how far we'd like to drive, and the types of work and play we'd like to have included. We will leave on June 25th after morning worship!

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.

We are very blessed by your prayers and support!

Pastor Marta Wheeler

Photos from a Youth Service Project

On February 12 the Youth put on a Valentine party for children staying at the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House. Families staying at this house have a child who is hospitalized at Children's Hospital, and they also live at least 60 miles from Omaha. The youth brought games and Valentine treats for the children staying at the house. The children miss their homes, and the parents were glad the youth came to spend time with them.



UMW News

We are excited to have our first Saturday UMW meeting this year March 4 at 9:30 in the parlor. Mary Cave is speaking on the Guatemalan stove project and all are welcome.

I was able to attend the Ecumenical Legislative Day at Christ Church in Lincoln on February 11 and met Senators Patty Pansing-Brooks and Senator Kate Boltz—both very inspiring women. Six current issues and the relevant bills dealing with them were discussed. I could only go to three so next year I hope we can have a group so we can share what we have gleaned.

The Great Plains UMW is sponsoring a spring retreat Friday, April 28-Sunday April 30. It is led by a national staff person and is on five women in the Bible. It is at Camp Comeca near Cozad and it would be great to go as a group!! Registration form is online but needs to be mailed. Deadline is April 14 so talk to friends and see if it works!!

The time has come! The time is here! Music for all Seasons is our spring event, Saturday, April 1 at 10am. Suggested donation for tickets is \$15 each, and you may call the office or ask a member. The Omaha Children's Choir is performing and there will be a sing-a-long with Pat Watts and Lorraine Hahn. A great way to start spring!!

Thanks to all who supported the Mini-Mart.

Marjorie Shreve, President

Community Counselor Julie Lord

St. Paul UMC hosted the very first Methodist Community Counselor when the program was just beginning. Now there are 10 counselors in churches and 18 counselors in public high schools and middle schools in Omaha. Julie Lord is a counselor with the Methodist Community Counseling Program, and her office is on the third floor of our church.

Julie is an Omaha native who now lives in Blair with her husband and two children, Alex, who is 5, and Abby, who is 2. Her husband, Chris, is a social studies teacher in Winnebago. Julie went to Millard South High School and then got her bachelors and masters degrees from Wayne State. She is in her office at St. Paul UMC on Mondays; the rest of the week she is at Monroe Middle School, where she sees students for a variety of reasons, including depression, emotional problems, stress, adjustment problems, and substance abuse.

The Methodist Hospital Community Counseling Program helps those who might otherwise not have access to mental health services. Free, confidential counseling is provided by experienced, licensed, master's-level mental health practitioners in office space provided by churches and public schools. No fee is charged for services. Donations are welcome. If you are interested in learning more about the counseling program, you can reach Julie at 402-354-6891, extension 23.



Julie Lord



Family Bowling & Pizza
Saturday, March 4, 2:00-4:30 p.m.
Maplewood Lanes, 3030 North 101st St.
Pizza & pop provided—pay only \$4.49 for each game you play. For more information email
srosenberger@stpaulomaha.org
or call 402-830-6285.

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PRESENT



Music for all Seasons

ANNUAL SPRING BRUNCH
SATURDAY, APRIL 1 10 AM

PROGRAM PRESENTED BY
🎵 OMAHA CHILDREN'S CHOIR 🎵
PERFORMING SONGS OF FREEDOM, TRUTH AND INSPIRATION
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF AMANDA STEVENSON

SEASONAL SONGS PRESENTED BY
PATRICIA WATTS, PIANO & LORRAINE HAHN, VOCALIST

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL 54TH & CORBY

SUGGESTED
DONATION

\$15

Tickets must be purchased in advance by Monday, March 27th and are available by calling (402) 556-2433, at the Church Office, or from any UMW member. Your donation will support St. Paul's United Methodist Women's local, national and global mission projects.

UMW NEWS

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

March:
Esther

April:
Naomi &
Rebecca

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

**ALL WOMEN OF ST. PAUL ARE
INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A
SATURDAY MEETING MARCH 4TH.**

**Come for coffee at 9:30am in the Parlor with
the program beginning at 10am.
Mary Cave will discuss her time
in Guatemala working with the
Stove Builders Project.**

**Tickets will be available at this
time for our APRIL 1 brunch.
Don't miss this event featuring
a season of song.**

**Please turn in your pledge cards
now...**

Mark your calendars for April 1st...10 AM
Come and enjoy a time of good food, fellowship
and musical treats at our SPRING BRUNCH !!!

Recent Hospitalizations

Dolores Wolsleben, Joanne Lubberstedt, Ione Ferrel, Phyllis Wilmoth

Christian Sympathy

To the family of Marjorie Schoenhair in her death.

To Pat Ladika and family in the death of her sister, Marge McCary.

Thank You

Special thanks to my family and friends that joined me in the celebration of my 90th birthday.
Gladys Lantz

Memorials

For Phyllis Noble—Jerry Brabec

For Ruth Konopik—Virginia Grove, Martha Ann Orr, Scott & Jo Sempeck, Mary Ann Kirchner, Jane Trexler, Lois & Gene Konopik, Steven & Jaclyn Anderson, John & Claudia Griger

For Dorothy Butterfield—Jerry Brabec

For Carla McLeod—Jerry Brabec

Honorarium

For Gladys Lantz—Richard Hagerman, Annette Farquhar

Cataract Surgery Financial Aid

Midwest Eye Care, UNMC Physicians Department of Anesthesia, and Clarkson Family Practice will donate their services to provide cataract surgery at no charge to people with financial need as part of Mission Cataract USA. If you know someone who is visually impaired due to cataracts and has financial need, please have them contact Midwest Eye Care, 402-552-2020 by March 6th to speak with Nicole, their Mission Cataract coordinator.

Take Care of Your Heart

Spring is coming! This is a good time to take care of your "sweetheart" and yourself by taking action against heart disease! Being heart smart starts with knowing your numbers: from cholesterol and triglycerides, to your blood pressure, waist size and body mass index. Make a daily commitment to a heart-healthy lifestyle. This means exercising regularly, making healthy food choices, managing stress, and avoiding tobacco.

Source: American Heart Association.

Here's to Healthy Living!
Health Ministry Team

The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, March 25, at Brazen Head. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Brazen Head, 319 North 78 Street, at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



Book Club

"Underground RR" by Colson Whitehead is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their March meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, March 11, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

Stephen Ministry in Action

I went to the Stephen Leader Training Session in Pittsburg, PA in August of 2013.

My father had died in May of that year. My grieving was quite up and down. It was then that I knew I would have benefitted greatly by having a Stephen Caregiver; someone who would spend time listening to me and praying for me and with me. Are you in that position?

Peace,
Kathy Rice





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



inWorship

Saturday Evenings

5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday, March 5

10:00 a.m.—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. African & Bhutan Services

Sunday Mornings—March 12, 19, 26

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 inSpiration