

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

May 2017



Pastoral Perspective

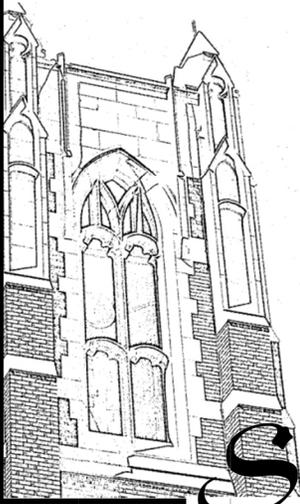
I do not know about you but most of my time and focus is consumed on what is happening in the here and now. Who am I getting together with today and what meetings are on the schedule? Do I need to pack a lunch or am I scheduled to go out to lunch? Sure, I have many activities and gatherings on my calendar for the next week, the next month and later in the year but most of my focus is on what's next.

Therefore, the current sermon series that Pastor Marta and I started post-Easter and continue this month is a bit of a departure from the norm for me. We are exploring the various facets of climate change and the human contribution to it. In this sermon series about caring for God's creation I have to think of the condition that I am leaving planet earth to my 10 month old grand-daughter, Cariel, for her adult life and the generations that follow her. That focus extends beyond my usual conscious timeline.

I need to reflect on the best understanding that the scientific studies provide regarding the ripple effect of my current energy consumption. Then I need to see, as a child of God, what changes I can make in my day to day living to leave planet earth in better shape than inherited. I invite you to join me on this journey of understanding and intentional lifestyle choices as we consider how we can best care for God's creation. What can we do today to bless future generations?

I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Blessings, Pastor Scott



Cool Congregation Team

Across the country, people of faith are making changes in their homes and places of worship to prevent global warming through the Cool Congregations program developed by the organization called Interfaith Power and Light. The unique stewardship program helps congregations engage their members in Creation-care by reducing individual greenhouse gas emissions and helps save hundreds of dollars in the process. If you have interest in developing a Cool Congregation Team here at St. Paul please contact Pastor Scott.

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 and share 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 April 16th

Church Gifts & Income were \$153,995 and Church Expenses were \$143,246.

Child Development Center Income was \$183,267 and CDC expenses were \$171,102.

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

Confirmation Class

St. Paul will host a Confirmation class for students that are finishing 6th or 7th grade this spring as well as any older students who have missed in the past. Rev. Scott Shreve will be the lead teacher. The students and a parent will meet once a month in June, July and August. The students will meet with Rev. Shreve two Sunday afternoons a month in the school year at 4:30 p.m. 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 the church office to register.

New Building Engineer, Chris Jones

We are pleased to welcome Chris Jones, our new St. Paul UMC Building Engineer. Chris was born in Arizona and grew up in Colorado. He previously worked at the Apple Creek Apartments.

Chris will be moving into the house next door to the church, 5420 Corby Street. In September he will be getting married to Kristyn Dandeneau, who is a teacher in the St. Paul UMC preschool.

Chris and Kristyn have two dogs, Loki and Konnor, both labs.

Chris says he is looking forward to getting acquainted with all the members of St. Paul UMC.



Worship Attendance

January-April 23, 2017 - 228 January-April 23, 2016—234

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

May Worship Services

With the festival of Easter being a movable occasion set by the lunar calendar, the month of May encompasses most of the Fifty Great Days of Easter. Pastors Scott Shreve and Marta Wheeler continue their series on being “Stewards of the Earth” and what that means as followers of Jesus Christ. A choral exchange with Rockbrook Church (98th & Center) will happen mid-month, with St. Paul singing there for the 10:45 service **May 14** and Rockbrook’s singers joining us for 10:30 worship on **May 21**. The Solid Brass Quartet will join the choirs at both services.

Our mid-month M & M service held Wednesday, **May 17** at 7:00 p.m. continues with the theme of the laity reminding us of “how St. Paul has helped me on my spiritual journey.” We will 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!

The third **Single Sunday Service** will be celebrated Memorial Day weekend with worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., **May 28**. Rev. Shreve will preach on the festival of Ascension and what that means for Memorial Day as a national holiday in the life of our country. Our morning worship will include music from Joy Bells, The Choir and David Schack, organist. There will be no children’s or youth Sunday school, so plan to worship with the entire family as you enjoy this extended weekend. As always, the Saturday evening service will be held in Roth Chapel at 5:00 p.m.

Do you have the desire to serve but you don’t know exactly where?

Do you frequently receive compliments on your “winning smile” and “friendly, outgoing manner”? St. Paul needs you! One of the first people that 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!

Preaching Schedule

May 6/7	Stewards of the Earth-3 John 10:1-10	“A Paradigm Shift”	Rev. Wheeler preaching
May 13-14	Stewards of the Earth-4 John 14:1-14	“Do not let your hearts be troubled – Answers for now and for then.”	Rev. Shreve preaching
May 20-21	Stewards of the Earth-5 John 14:15-21	“The Spirit of Truth Abides and Works Through Us.”	Rev. Shreve preaching
May 27/28	Ascension Sunday Acts 1:1-11 and Luke 24:44-53	“Ascension/ Memorial Day”	Rev. Shreve preaching

OTOC Fundraiser Update

No fooling—the Eighth Annual OTOC Spring Fundraiser held April First at Kaneko Gallery was a great success, and we thank our St. Paul members who donated and attended. Your support, as always, is much appreciated. Watch for a "Save The Date" notice for next year.

Health Kit Reminder

The Mercy & Justice Team is sponsoring the assembly of health kits to be taken to Annual Conference June 7-10. These kits will then be taken to one of the UMCOR supply depots and eventually used during times of crisis. If you would like to help provide health kits for UMCOR you can find specifications for assembling a kit in the church office, on the church website, or on one of the church bulletin boards. If you would like to help but cannot shop for the kit items, you may make a monetary donation. Each kit costs approximately \$12 to assemble.



**April Special
Offering for
Native American
Ministries
\$570.00**



Thanks for the many hands that helped in the renovation of the house next to the church that Chris Jones will occupy this month.

Thanks to Steve and Jan Biga, John Vinchattle and

Kasen, Kent Bacon, El Siebert, Gary Noerrlinger and the youth group!

VBS 2017

Sunday, June 4 through Wednesday, June 7

Dinner from 5:00-5:50 p.m.

VBS from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Preschool age 4 through 5th Grade

Volunteers needed:

Leaders

Recreation Helpers

Snack Helpers

Assistant Leaders

Youth Helpers

VBS Prep

**Email Stephanie Rosenberger at
srosenberger@stpaulomaha.org
or call the church office at 402-556-2433
if you can help.**



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 EXPECT A BETTER FUTURE IN A REALISTIC WAY

“The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped”—Psalm 28:7

Unfortunate tragedies among people from all walks of life have brought the topic of mental illness to the forefront, ending silence and demanding productive discussion. More funding is allocated to research which produces better tools to study the brain, leading to knowledge which enables better treatment. Individuals are telling stories of “average” harmless people coping with a very real but misunderstood disease. These stories subdue frightful myths that block attempts for successful handling of the problem. Statistics are improving for reclaiming a full, independent lifestyle with manageable health issues. Spiritual influences are recognized in the scientific community as being helpful and are being added to the table of legitimate recovery aids. Mental illness is elevated to the same respected ranks of other diseases we want to fight and conquer.

Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

During Holy Week, St. Paul youth participated in the Good Friday service and led the Sunrise Easter Service. They also served the UMW brunch and helped clean the parsonage for the expected arrival of our new Building Engineer.

Beginning the end of April, we will begin a video series: *“The Power of Youth; Being Visionaries and Prophets.”* This is our plan for April 30th and May 7th and 21st.

The annual Box City will be held on Friday, May 5th. Set up will begin at 5:30 pm. We hope for great weather and will prepare for less than perfect. We sleep on the lawn of 1st UMC in Omaha in solidarity with people who are homeless. There will be speakers, a jazz group, and lots of other fun and interesting ways to learn about the homeless and make new friends with young people from the area. Box City will conclude on Saturday morning at 8 a.m.

On May 12th, we will not meet and encourage each youth to observe the Festival of the Christian Home, including Mother’s Day, with their families.

Vacation Bible School will be June 4-7th. The youth’s assistance and energy is appreciated in bringing God’s word to the little ones.

Rev. Marta Wheeler



Annual Used Book Sale May 20/21

It’s that time again. Time to stock up on inexpensive books (50 cents and \$1) for your summer reading. The sale will be open on Saturday, May 20, following the Saturday night service, and on Sunday morning.

All proceeds go toward St. Paul’s Mission Pledge.

Have books to donate? Please bring them to the church library after May 12.

Sponsored by the Christian Adventure Class and United Methodist Men

Information Available on Various Health Topics

The Health Ministry Team has added a section on the St. Paul website. This section includes information on general health topics.

For those members who do not have access to the internet, the team has also placed a Health Ministry Education File in the library across from Jerry's office. The original copy of the information on the website can be found in the file box; if you would like a paper copy, please take the original to the church office to request a copy.



Medical Equipment Closet

The Health Ministry Team reminds members of the church that there is a medical equipment closet in the church, and members may borrow items from this closet. Go to the church office for assistance in acquiring needed equipment. Available items are loaned at no cost with request that they be returned after use. An inventory of available items is included in the Health Ministries section on the St. Paul website and in the Health Ministry Education File in the library. The inventory is updated monthly.

Lower-Fat Baking

Are you looking for a way to lower the fat in baked goods while retaining the moist texture, touch and taste? Try pureed fruit. Experiment by replacing part of the fat in baked goods recipes with pureed prunes, pears, figs, peaches and applesauce. All will provide flavor and moisture with fewer calories, and little or no added fat.

Here's to your good health!

Health Ministry Team

UMW Update

Thanks to all who made the Spring Brunch, Music for All Seasons , a success! We sold all 112 tickets. The Children's Chorus provided inspiring music. Thanks to Marilou Dohe and Kathy Rice for the table decorations, Pearl Spicka for directing the kitchen, the Youth for amazing bussing and clean up, Nick Stolzer, George Adamson, and John Rasmussen, the men who braved the women to help. Patricia Watts and Lorrain Hahn with the sing along provided a great finale. Also thanks to all the others who helped in many and various ways – *including coming and enjoying*. The profit goes to support the youth mission trip and UMW missions at home and around the globe.

The spring district UMW retreat is Saturday May 6 at Bellevue St. James, 1501 Franklin St. Registration starts at 8:30. The topic is The Three Simple Rules, A Wesleyan Way of Living. The presenter is Elly Biederman. Lunch is \$7 and RSVP is needed by May 3 to June Ethridge 402-292-1279 and child care is available upon request to Kim Embrey 402-291-3275.

The Big Garden, our local UMW Mission, is having its spring plant non-profit fund raiser on May 12-14 and May 19-21 9am-2PM each day at 5602 Read Street (3 blocks north of 56th and Sorenson Pkwy). Go, see the new greenhouses and education site and *pick up some plants!!*

Our speaker for the Wednesday, May 3 meeting in the parlor is Karen Sokolof Javitch, local playwright and producer. She will be discussing the play she co-wrote with Elaine Jabenis called *Generation to Generation*. It is the story of a Jewish grandmother wishing to leave a legacy to her unborn granddaughter.

Marjorie Shreve, President

Church Council

The next meeting of the St. Paul UMC Church Council will be Monday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Everyone is invited to attend Church Council meetings.

Benson Farmers Market

The Benson Farmers Market opens its 10th season on May 6th. It is located at the Omaha Home for Boys, 4343 North 52nd St (52nd & Ames), every Saturday, rain or shine, May 6 through September 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



the McMahon Family

SPAGHETTI FEED AND SILENT AUCTION

To Benefit the McMahon Family
and Their Fight Against ALS

MONDAY, MAY 22 6-8 PM

St. Paul UMC Fellowship Hall
54th & NW Radial Hwy.

\$10 per person
Kids <5 = Free



Sponsored by
ST. PAUL UMC CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Register for Silent Auction before 7PM. Winners of Auction Prizes do not need to be present to win.

UMW NEWS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Hostesses:

May...Ruth

**June...
Rebecca**

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

MAY 3 WILL BE OUR NEXT MEETING.

**Coffee at 9:30 in the Parlor
followed by an interesting program
presented by
KAREN SOKOLOF JAVITCH,
a local playwright.**

**Through speech and performance learn
about her Jewish Heritage.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Big Garden Spring Plant Sale
At old Northwest Nursery site**

May 12-16

May 19-21

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MINI-MART

MAY 6-7 PLAN TO BAKE!

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Conference meeting May 6, Bellevue St. James

**Health kits are being prepared to take to
Annual Conference. Cost is about \$12. Instructions
for assembly are available in the UMW cupboard.**

Recent Hospitalizations

Milford Spicka, Tom Pursel

Christian Sympathy

To Stan & Virginia Richards in the death of Stan's brother, Merl.

To Anne Reim & family in the death of Anne's husband, Jim.

Honorariums

For Jerry Brabec—Lori Richter

For Karen Loveless—Dawn & George Kibby

For Derek Wolfe—Jim Boston, Vance Taylor

Cancer/Chronic Illness Support Group

A support group for people with cancer or other chronic illnesses meets the first and third Thursdays of each month. The next meeting is May 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor. If you have questions about the group, call Shirley Edwards at 402-572-7379.

Grounds Clean-up Day

Join the Adult Ministries Team in a spring cleaning of the church grounds Saturday, May 6, at 9:00 a.m. Bring your garden tools with you and join members in weeding, planting and cleaning the church grounds.

The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, May 20, at Michael's Cantina. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Michael's Cantina, 1102 Harney Street, at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



Memorials

For Marge McCary—Robert McCary, Greg & Ruth McCary, Nick & Mary Stolzer

For Helen Kensinger—Ann M. Van Hoff, Mary M. Wolcott-Breci, Carl & Marilyn Halker, Martha Ann Orr, Joyce Black

For Jim Reim—Geri Jensen, Walt & Dorothy Sharp, Kathy Bertrang, Tom & Dorothy Hallstrom, Margaret Lageschulte, Bob & Deb Thompson, Ken & Jan Walker, Dick & Pat Whiteman, Gladys Lantz, Don Wilcox, Gary & Carla Noerrlinger, Don & Becky Rose, Jack & Judy Stransky, Annette Farquhar, Pam & Dr. Harold Huff, June Dunbar, Joanne Lubberstedt, Reim Family, Marc & Karen May, Jackie Pospisil

For Davy Winslow—Jude Winslow

For Ruth Konopik—Jackie Pospisil

For Mrs. Wunch—Jude Winslow

For Paul Peyton & Sisters Leone & Virgice—Jeanette Peyton

UMW Spring Mini-Mart May 6 and 7

Baked good & crafts will be available for purchase with proceeds supporting UMW's mission giving.

Book Club

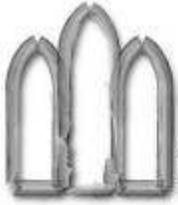
"Lemon Orchard" by Luanne Rice is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their May meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, May 13, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

Stephen Ministry in Action

"Within five minutes of meeting my Stephen Minister, I knew she was right for me. She listens and cares—never judging or criticizing me. She has shown me God's unconditional love, something I had never fully experienced before."

Sarah





Saint Paul
United Methodist Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



inWorship

Saturday Evenings

5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday Mornings—May 7, 14, 21

9:15 a.m. FUSION—Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m.—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. African & Bhutan Services

Sunday, May 28

10:00 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**