



Pastoral Perspective

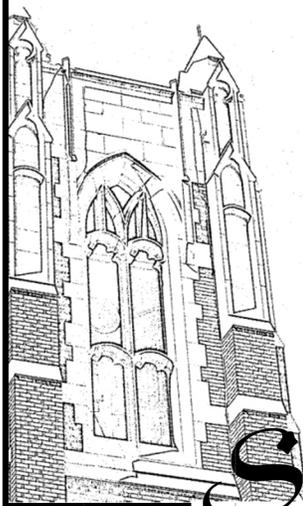
Last fall we commissioned a Vision Team composed of twelve St. Paul members to explore ideas for helping St. Paul connect with our community. The Vision Team concluded their work this spring. The Vision Team members are breaking up into groups of 2-3 to provide leadership for the following outreach endeavors. I hope that many others at St. Paul will join in. During Benson Days on July 28, St. Paul members will follow the Fusion Band in the parade with popsicles & refreshingly cool bottles of water to share with folk in the crowd. We may also have a Pie Booth at Benson Days. On August 3, St. Paul members will join others from Benson during Paint-a-Thon, where a homeowner in need has their property dramatically upgraded in one day! Finally, we will host a Health Fair October 28 from 8:00 a.m. to noon for the community and congregation. St. Paul will team up with Nebraska Methodist College to provide free flu shots and a variety of free health checks for one and all.

The endeavors coordinated by the Vision Team members combine with our ongoing ministry efforts like VBS, Clothes Closets, special concerts, the Child Development Center, and the Advent Fair to connect St. Paul to the greater community. After all our purpose statement is *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 Christ.* I ask you to choose one of these outreach ministries by helping out or supporting it in prayer as the year unfolds.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott

May Events

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| May 2 | United Methodist Women at 9:30 a.m.
Last day to order plants from CDC sale |
| May 5 & 6 | UMW Mini Mart in the Gathering Areas |
| May 11 | CDC plant sale orders delivered |
| May 12 | Flower & vegetable planting at 9:00 a.m. |
| May 16 | M&M Service in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. |
| May 19 | Notable Nineties Brunch at 10:00 a.m.
Dinner Group at Crescent Moon at 6:15 p.m. |
| May 21 | Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. |
| May 27 | One worship service at 10:00 a.m. |



St. Paul in Spiration

Saint Paul Church

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Stewardship

Through March: Church Gifts \$108,083 Church Expenses \$111,391
CDC Income \$134,550 CDC Expenses \$135,402

Thanks for your support, prayers and active expressions of ministry!

Confirmation Class

Seven teens became confirmed members of St. Paul Church as a part of worship on April 29. The 2018 Confirmation Class included: Hector Amaya, Sebastian Amaya, Jackson Nicholas Avila, Katherine Marie Jabens, Abigail Leigh Pokett, Steven John Rosenberger, and Jude Garreth Jay Winslow. Dylan Crisman, also a member of the class, will be confirmed in June. In addition to attending classes they visited the Hindu Temple, Temple Israel and the American Muslim Institute. They have helped out around the church in a variety of ways as well. We are blessed to have these new members in our St. Paul congregation.

Church Council ~ May 21, 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Shreve will share some ideas regarding steps forward at St. Paul. Your presence and input is most welcome. We will discuss the possibility of the Church Council taking on more administrative tasks usually performed by the Stewardship Finance Team, Board of Trustees and Staff Parish Relations Committee to free members up for Ministry Teams. How might we organize our Ministry Teams? Would the overarching categories of Mission, Outreach and Stewardship suffice or is something more needed? We will also discuss worship on Sunday morning. As we look to the fall, what might be the most effective format for all ages, yet with a special focus on a growing presence of young families at St. Paul? In addition, the Church Council will continue to have discussions on *The Way Forward* in the larger United Methodist Church. Each St. Paul member is most welcome to join the conversation.

The Way Forward...

The Church Council will continue the conversation regarding the *Commission on the Way Forward* and the expected Bishops Consultation.

- We hosted two six week Lenten studies on the *Unity of the Church*
- Now, talk in small groups about the idea of accepting clergy and conducting weddings regardless of sexual orientation and/or become a Reconciling Congregation; what are clarifying questions or points?
- Next Steps: this summer provide gatherings where we can study the statement to be released from the Council of Bishops on this topic. Supplement it by using a study guide for further discussion.
- July Church Council—share reflections for next steps of study, congregational input and decision making.

Wednesday Evening Study Continue...

Each Wednesday evening the St. Paul pastors will host a Bible study that will focus on the scripture lesson for the upcoming weekend. All are welcome. The M&M service will be featured on May 16th. All gatherings are in the Chapel.

Pentecost

The Fifty Great Days of Easter will end with our celebration of Pentecost, **May 19/20**. We will be filled with the spirit of music offered by organist, David Schack and the Solid Brass Quartet, as well as members of the St. Paul Choir during the 10:30 worship hour and our faithful Fusion musicians at 9:15. You are encouraged to observe our receiving of the Holy Spirit by wearing red, the color of the United Methodist flame! Pastors Scott Shreve and Marta Wheeler begin a new Pentecost series, "Can Do in Christ" based on the words of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley.

M&M Worship Service

Our mid-month M & M service held Wednesday, **May 16** 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!

Memorial Day Weekend Worship

The second **Single Sunday Service** will be celebrated Memorial Day weekend with worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., **May 27**. Rev. Wheeler will preach on the importance of "doing good by all the means you can" 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 Curtis Pelster, trumpet. 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.

Clergy Corner ~ Rev. Jerry Brabec

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

To most, it is no secret that I love musical theater. Sad or happy, long or short, good or bad...to me, they are all great. No favorites, take them as they come, some being forgotten as quickly as they are over! This affliction is directly traced to my Mom's taking us to the Council Bluffs drive-in theater in the family Carryall, at least, that's what we called it. We'd back in and open the doors, dressed in our PJ's with pillows in tow for "South Pacific", "The Music Man", "The Sound of Music"...whatever the summer show du jour, served family style!

At St. Paul, the Rev. Cindy Bates fed this passion when she began a musical project cast from the congregation. That first year it was "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" with the blockhead being portrayed by, then lead pastor, the Rev. Dr. Ed Bonneau. The next year it was "Godspell"...then, Cindy left us, but the shows went on! For the next 7 years St. Paul Church offered a quality production with costumes, lights and orchestra, second to none.

As that activity 'waned' it was my great good fortune to become involved on the production staff at the Omaha Theater for Young People at the Rose Blumkin Theater and, thirty-five shows later, the love for musicals has truly 'waxed'! Currently, the Disney spectacular "Newsies" is in rehearsal. The affiliation with the Rose has brought many new friendships and professional opportunities. Not only have there been the main stage shows, but music directing the Rose Brigade, a select group of 13-18 year-old musical theater students, has been a highlight and very rewarding. The Brigade has received an 'outstanding performance' award four of the five years they have participated at the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta, where over 6,500 students in 500 ensembles gather from all over the world.

My thanks to St. Paul Church...my clergy colleagues, the staff and each of you... for allowing this incredible opportunity for ministry outside the walls to flourish.

OMAHA GIVES!

Omaha Gives! is a year-round online giving platform organized by the Omaha Community Foundation to grow philanthropy in Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawattamie counties. Each year, there is a 24-hour online giving event in May to celebrate nonprofits. This year's giving day will take place on Wednesday, May 23.

The goal is to inspire the community to come together for 24 hours to give as much as possible to support the work of public 501(c)(3) nonprofits in the metro area. The minimum donation is \$10 and there is no maximum. Prizes and challenge funds amplify charitable donations to make each dollar go further. Last year, the community raised over \$7.8 million for local nonprofits.

This year St. Paul UMC, along with the UM Big Garden Project, BART & OTOC appear as some of the charitable options. To make a donation, or for more information, go to www.omahagives.org and click on "Donate".

Benson Area Refugee Task Force Update

BART is now holding Citizenship classes at St. Paul on Sunday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:00. We meet in Room 109 or in the library. We have 10 students from the Bhutanese congregation. We have 3 teachers and helpers are welcome as some are farther along in their English than others.

There is also a Chin Citizenship class at Crosspoint Bible Church at 7820 Fort St. on Saturday evenings at 8:30. There are 3 who teach there.

The BART has a program called Home Dish that was started by Pam Font-Gable, a board member. She invites refugee women from a different community every 6 weeks or so to prepare a meal for about 20 women. The women pay a contribution for the meal and get to talk to the cooks and other women, have a wonderful ethnic meal, and hear the stories, via interpreters, of the women who cooked. The money is given to the women. If anyone is interested in hosting or attending, they can be put on a waiting list by emailing benzonrefugeetf@gmail.com or talking to Marjorie Shreve, Madison Malone or Dee Maycock.

BART will be sponsoring a gathering in June in Benson to celebrate refugee women who were featured in an online article for Glamour magazine. The date and place will be announced when verified.

Refugee Clothes Closet

The Benson Area Refugee Task Force sponsored a "clothes closet" for refugees on Saturday, April 21. The clothes closet started at 9:00 a.m., and at 7:00 a.m. there were 50 people waiting outside the church for the doors to open. The tables in Fellowship Hall were piled high with clothing, which was all free for the refugees. Also available, and very much appreciated, were packages of new underwear and socks, many of them donated at St. Paul UMC's Undie Sunday.

Volunteers helped with the setup, with the sale itself, and with the take down. Thanks to all of you, and to everyone who donated clothing. The next BART Clothes Closet event is scheduled for August 25.



Set-up Day: Thursday, April 19—It was great to have a number of volunteers to help get ready for the sale.

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, 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, 402-551-6377.

Spiritual Direction Available at St. Paul

As part of my training to be a spiritual director, I've been asked to find a few people who are interested in having a spiritual director. After participating in spiritual formation for many years, I've been engaged in extensive formative training to enhance my knowledge and skills. A spiritual director is one who doesn't "direct" you, so much as companion you as a contemplative listener to help you notice what God is up to in your life.

Spiritual direction involves a confidential, prayerful, 1:1 meeting once a month. One shares their experience of God, and while listening prayerfully, questions are raised, and you are gently supported on your journey of seeking God. Spiritual direction helps one focus and intensify their journey with God and prayer life. If you think you'd be interested, please call 306-9499 or email mwheeler@stpaulomaha.org, and we can discuss if this is a commitment that would be right for you and me. Feel free to pass this information on to others.

Rev. Marta Wheeler

Saturday Maintenance Position

Please contact Rev. Shreve if you are interested or know someone who might be interested in our open Saturday Building Maintenance position. It includes general care of the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and other parts of the building as well as open and closing for various groups (including weddings) that use St. Paul on Saturdays. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the compensation is competitive.

Ushers Needed

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 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!

Notable Luncheon ~ A Royal Event

The annual celebration of those nearing or previously achieving their ninetieth natal anniversary (also known as a 90th birthday!) are invited to attend a brunch gathering in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, **May 19** at 10:00 a.m. "Notable Nineties" is St. Paul's way of saying, "where would we be without you" to a group of members whose wisdom and longevity is to be admired! Marilou Dohe hosts the program focusing on the British Royal Family over the years. For more information or to RSVP your plans to attend, call the church office.

Lock Car Doors

Over the past several months individuals have been seen in our parking lot checking doors to cars that are parked. They are looking to find open cars and remove anything of value from them. Please lock your doors. In addition, on the weekend and evenings when doors to the church are unlocked, please do not leave valuables like purses, key, etc. unattended. Better safe than sorry! Thanks.

Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

We celebrate the many ways the youth were involved in the month of April: Holy Week and Easter services, the UMW Spring Lunch, and 7 Confirmands joined the church with one more to join in June!

Check out the calendar for May and send any questions to me. Friends are always welcome!

Sunday, May 6th-4-5:30 Youth Group

Sunday, May 13th-No youth group on Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 20th-2-5 pm. Zoo Day!

Sunday, May 27th-Memorial Weekend, we will not meet this day.

June 3-6th, VBS-Thank you for letting Stephanie know if you'll help during this fun week! The youth are in charge of games and are needed to help in other ways as well.

June 7-9th-Junior High Youth Trip to KC. Cost to youth that have been involved at St. Paul in the past year-\$100. Please pay \$50 deposit by May 15th and next \$50 by June 5th.



July 8-14th-High School Trip to Chicago. Cost to youth that have been involved at St. Paul in the past year-\$200. Please pay \$100 deposit by June 1st and the next \$100 by July 1st.

(Youth must be entering 9th grade this fall in order to attend).

There will be a limit on the number of registrations due to limited van space.

Youth funds will be used to pay for as much of the trips as possible. Thanks!

We appreciate the prayers and support of the congregation as youth grow in discipleship to Jesus Christ. Thank you!!

Rev. Marta Wheeler

Preaching Schedule Theme—

Eastertide-Resurrection Living

May 5/6	Acts 10:44-48	Astounded by God	Rev. Wheeler
May 12/13	Acts 1:15-26	With Leadership	Rev. Shreve

Pentecost-Can Do in Christ

May 19/20	Acts 2:1-21	Do All the Good You Can	Rev. Shreve
May 26/27	Isaiah 6:1-8	By All the Means You Can	Rev. Wheeler

May 12 is Planting Day at St. Paul UMC

Bring your gardening tools and join the Adult Ministries team at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 12, planting flowers and vegetables at St. Paul.

We can support the St. Paul Child Care's fundraiser, which began taking orders April 23 with a large variety of high quality plants available. Delivery date is conveniently May 11, just in time for planting the following day.

We have a landscaping vision of coleus plants, knock out roses and a variety of colorful annuals. Consider making a contribution either with your hands or gifts of plants or money.

Help us add some of God's beauty and color to our church grounds.

Adult Ministry Team



St. Paul CDC Plant Sale

St. Paul Child Development Center's annual plant sale is underway. Flowers, vegetables and hanging baskets are available.

Orders must be turned in by May 2, and delivery to the church will be Friday, May 11. Order forms, which list the plants and their prices, can be picked up in the church office.



VBS 2018

**Sunday, June 3, through
Wednesday, June 6**

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

Assistant Leaders

Recreation Helpers

Youth Helpers

Snack Helpers

VBS Prep

**Email Stephanie Rosenberger at
srosenberger@stpaulomaha.org**

or call the church office at 402-556-2433 if you can help.

MAY 2018

UMW NEWS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Marjorie Shreve

Vice President
Mary Stolzer

Secretary
Connie Crawford

Treasurer
Lorraine Hahn

Advisor
Kathy Rice

General Meeting

Wednesday, May 2

Coffee at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**Program is on Women of the Bible
presented by Kim Stokely**

President's Update

Our speaker for Wednesday, May 2 will be Kim Stokely with a presentation on Women of the Bible. All are welcome to come at 9:30 for fellowship and 10 for the speaker.

Thanks to all who helped with and came to our Spring Luncheon. Thanks especially to committee members: Marilou Dohe, Kathy Rice, Pearl Spicka and Jeanne Roussell. Special thanks also to Pat Watts on the piano and Lorraine Hahn on tickets. Thanks to Sue Bacon for all the behind the scenes help and Kristin Camp for the poster and ticket design. Thanks to the youth and their parents and sponsors and the men who chipped in also. Thanks to all the others who helped with the tables and in the kitchen. We had a nearly full house even with the inclement weather. The Pride Players from the Rose Theater presented a thought provoking and enlightening program about their experiences as junior high and high school students from the LGBTQ community.

Our April speaker was Jason McGee who is associated with Hope Mission which assists youths in many aspects of daily living. He was very interesting and they do a lot for the youth, including job preparation.

Our next Mini-Mart will be the weekend before Mother's day, May 5-6.

The Big Garden is a UMW national mission site and their vegetable plants will go on sale Thursday April 19-Saturday April 21 at 5602 Read Street and the two following weekends. The only Sunday will be Mother's Day weekend.

The 2018 National UMW will be happening in Columbus Ohio in May, and Marjorie will be attending. This is a quadrennial gathering. It is the 150th anniversary. St. Louis was the original site for that first Assembly in 1942, but the women moved their meeting to Columbus because St. Louis hotels were racially segregated and many would not serve black women.

Marjorie Shreve, President

Bring box tops from applicable cereals and other products with the labels

Mission Focus

**Philippines
Batis Center for
Women**

Developing skills transnational of migrant children, women and youth victims of human trafficking through educational sponsorship, home visits and counseling.

Mission Witness

Tammie Mailloux, Sr.
Coordinator of Events and Donors, Wesley Community Center, Houston, Texas

Christian Sympathy

To the family and friends of Jackie Pospisil in her death.

To the family and friends of Marilyn Claborn in her death.

To Sue Bobek in the death of her sister.

To Lois Braymen in the death of her husband.

Congratulations

To Wes Taylor and Amanda Lewis on the birth of their twins: a girl, Zion Rae, and a boy, Benjamin Israel, born April 9 in Leeds, England. Zion and Benjamin's grandparents are Tip and Orene Taylor.

Recent Hospitalizations

Estelle Potter, Dolores Wolsleben, Annette Conser

Memorials

For Tom Tinsley—Dr. Tom & Dorothy Hallstrom, Tinsley Family

For Mildred Taylor—Vance Taylor

For Jack Focht—Les Focht

For Lloyd Wood—Warren Wood

For Lewis & Lois Corbaley—Patricia Rahn, Bob & Patti Griffiths, Nancy Heller Lewis, Jerry Brabec, Martha Ann Orr, Sue Bobek, Stanley Richards

For Jackie Pospisil—Martha Ann Orr, Kent & Sue Bacon, Joyce Black, Jerry Brabec, Dee Maycock, Diane Pursel

Green Team Report



Think Green.

Speak to the Earth and it will teach thee.

.... Job 12.8

This month is for the pet lovers in our congregation!

I have cats and they are going through pounds and pounds of litter. And since litter can't be recycled (yuck!) or composted, there's only one place for it: The landfill. Your best solution is to find an eco-friendly litter option. Two suggestions: [Yesterday's News](#), made of recycled paper, and [Naturally Fresh](#), made of walnut shells.

Another suggestion is from my family members: my father-in-law uses his personal shredder and makes his own litter. Then the paper naturally biodegrades. My daughter does the same thing with her kid's guinea pigs and makes the bedding. This method saves money and is an alternative for reusing all that junk mail we get!

Book Club

We *Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter is the reading the Book Club will be discussing at their May meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, May 12, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, May 19, at



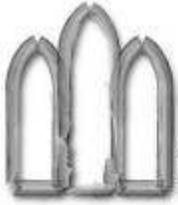
Crescent Moon, 3578 Farnam Street. Meet outside the chapel after 5:00 p.m. worship, or meet the group at Crescent Moon at approximately 6:15 p.m. All are welcome.



Stephen Ministry in Action:

" Stephen Ministry has given me a way to serve God more faithfully by bringing his presence to those in need. In the process, God has blessed me with skills I didn't know I had and enriched my life in more ways than I could imagine."

Gene, Aerospace Engineer
Manassas, Virginia



Saint Paul
United Methodist Church
5410 Corby Street, Omaha, NE 68104

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inWorship

Saturday Evenings

5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday Mornings, May 6, 13, 20

9:15 a.m. FUSION—Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m.—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. African & Bhutan Services

Sunday Morning, May 27

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 11:45 a.m.



Saint Paul in **Spiration**