

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

September 2017



Pastoral Perspective

“Gifts from God for Ministry” will be our focus in worship this month. What are your talents? What are the things that you enjoy doing in the life of the church? How might you volunteer here and in the community? This month everyone will receive a stewardship card in worship focused on making a difference at St. Paul by your prayers, presence, service and witness.

A related effort starting this month will focus on developing a stronger connection with the people in neighborhoods that surround St. Paul Church. This is our primary mission field. No doubt, God has exciting ways for us to be in ministry with our neighbors. In addition, I believe the surrounding neighborhoods are the primary source of our congregation in the years to come. We will always be a congregation with metropolitan membership but a strong base in Benson is essential. This fall and winter a St. Paul Vision Team will listen to the needs of the community, engage in outreach endeavors and host community gatherings. Let me know if you would like to listen, reach out, or provide hospitality.

Finally, September is the start of a new season of Sunday School for children and adults. In addition, there are various mid-week learning opportunities. Please see which class you might join to grow in heart, knowledge and action. I am thankful for each and every teacher as they provide the lessons for us to grow as disciples.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott

Second Sundays-Families Connecting

A special time for families with pre-school, grade school, and teen children to connect

When? 2nd Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

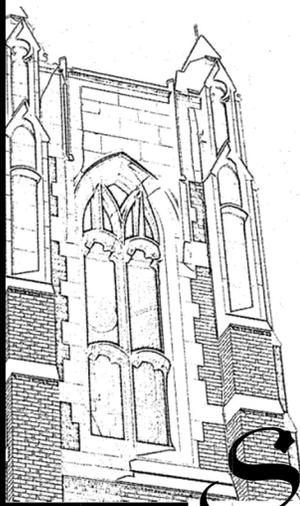
September 10th, October 8th, November 12th and December 10th

Worship will begin with a dedicated time with young worshippers in mind

After a children's message from the pastor, the children will depart for Sunday School

Following the service families are welcome for food and activities in the Parlor

Reach out to your extended family, friends, neighbors; let them know that St. Paul Church welcomes them!



St. Paul in Inspiration

Saint Paul Church

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Rev. Jerry Brabec

Minister of Worship

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Rev. Marta Wheeler

Associate Pastor

402-306-9499

Rev. Kathy Rice

Director of Stephen Ministry

Stephanie Rosenberger

Director of Children's Ministries

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Membership Secretary &
Administrative Assistant to the

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Katy Smith, Director

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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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To contact the editor:

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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.

Results through August 17

Church Gifts & Income \$320,555 Church Expenses \$298,746

Child Development Center Income \$373,289 CDC Expenses \$366,094

Thanks for your support, prayers and ongoing participation!

Commission on the Way Forward

St. Paul will have a study related to the Commission's work during the Lenten season next spring.

The United Methodist Church has been called to prayer as we deal with a crucial social issue once again. St. Paul is requested to pray on September 7 for the Way Forward.

Every generation of the church has been challenged on how faithful Christians should respond to the social issues of their day. In the United Methodist Church in America in the 19th century the hot-button issue was slavery. As the 19th closed out and the 20th century opened the demanding issue for church and society was a woman's right to vote. In the 1950's and 1960's the church needed to express the love of Christ regarding how civil rights applied to all citizens. The current issue the church needs to address with the love of Christ is human sexuality and church policies regarding our LGBT brothers and sisters. A **Commission on a Way Forward** was appointed by the Council of Bishops at the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to assist all of us in discerning a way forward. We have been asked to pray as the Commission does its work.

The [Commission on a Way Forward](#) convened in Chicago on July 19-21 to continue its work concerning human sexuality and exploring options for the future of The United Methodist Church on the issue. This was the fourth meeting of the 32-member Commission. After the last meeting in April in Washington, D.C., members indicated they were leaning toward a simpler structure with clearer processes for decision-making and accountability for the UMC in its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Conversations at that meeting showed a commitment to finding a way forward that honors the complexity of the global denomination and the unity of a shared faith in Christ.

Since that time, the Commission members have received input from several advocacy and renewal groups who have strong interest in the outcome and from general boards and agencies of the church. Members of the commission have also received survey results from constituents such as large-church pastors and seminary students.

The commission's ultimate assignment is to present its report to the Council of Bishops for action at the Special Session of General Conference set for Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis. Please keep the Commission in your prayers as they seek to provide guidance for all of us who are disciples of Christ within the United Methodist Church. For further information search **Commission on a Way Forward- United Methodist Church** on the internet.

Labor Day Weekend Worship

The fifth single-Sunday-service will be celebrated as part of the Labor Day holiday weekend. The Fusion Band will offer ministry *through* music **September 03**, with pianist, Pat Watts offering her music for the Saturday evening service. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion as part of both services. A month long topic via sermons and small group discussions on “The Gifts of God for Ministry” will be explored by the Revs. Scott Shreve and Marta Wheeler. More information is included elsewhere in this issue.

M&M Services

Back in the line-up of worship offerings is the M & M service held the third Wednesday of each month, October 2017 – June 2018. The 7:00 p.m. gatherings on **September 13**, December 20, and March 21 will be special services of healing for mind, body and spirit. Our focus for the rest of the series continues to revolve around the gifts of the laity, with special speakers and musicians gracing the Roth Chapel beginning October 18. If you would like to offer your personal witness about how St. Paul Church has aided you in your spiritual journey, please contact Pastor Scott, Pastor Marta or Rev. Jerry. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at each observance.

World Communion

Looking ahead, the annual observance of World Communion will be celebrated during worship **September 30/October 01**. Great music, great possibilities!

Preaching Schedule

Sept. 2/3	Rev. Wheeler	Gifts from God for Ministry-I	Psalm 105
Sept. 9/10	Rev. Shreve	Gifts from God for Ministry-Community	Matthew 18:15-20
Sept. 16/17	Rev. Shreve	Gifts from God for Ministry-Forgiveness	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept. 23/24	Harrietta Reynolds of Epworth Village speaking UMW Worship Weekend		
Sept 30/Oct 1	Rev. Shreve	Gifts from God for Ministry-Vision	Matthew 21-23-32

Bible Study or M&M Service each Wednesday, 7 p.m.—Chapel
All welcome—Hosted by your Pastors

Fall Confirmation Schedule

Classes Sunday afternoons during the Youth Group time, 4-5:30 p.m.

September 10	4 p.m.	Exploring the Psalms with Pastor Jerry and Pastor Scott
September 17	4 p.m.	Understanding the Lord’s Supper with Pastor Scott
September 23	5 p.m.	Confirmation Class leads Chapel Service in Psalm reading
October 1	4 p.m.	Exploring the Concept of the Trinity with Pastor Jerry and Pastor Scott
October 8	2 p.m.	<u>CROP Walk-Optional</u>
October 15	4 p.m.	Caring for God’s Creation with Pastor Scott
October 22	9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class leads Fusion Service in Psalm reading

Ending Hunger One Step at a Time

The 35th Annual Omaha CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 8. The walk will start at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 61st & Western Avenue. The St. Paul UMC Youth Group will be participating in the walk, and you are invited to join them. If you are not able to walk, you may still participate by sponsoring a walker.

25% of the CROP Hunger Walk funds are donated to hunger fighting agencies in the Omaha area. The remaining 75% goes to eradicate hunger and poverty world-wide through the work of Church World Service.

In 2017 the local money will be divided between

- City Sprouts community garden & education center (www.omahasprouts.org)
- No More Empty Pots (www.nmepomaha.org)
- Savings Grace perishable food rescue (www.savingsgracefoodrescue.org)

Habitat for Humanity House at 3905 North 22 Street

Members and friends of St. Paul UMC have been working on a Habitat for Humanity House. This photo was taken on August 17 after the workers had been there two weekends.

St. Paul UMC is part of a coalition of 20 faith organizations building this house. The family who will be moving into the house have already completed the 350 hours of "sweat equity" required under the Habitat program but have been on site helping with the work on their house.

If you are interested in helping, call Kent Bacon at 402-533-2208 or email him at kbacon@abbnebraska.com.



**August Special
Offering for
Habitat for
Humanity
\$1,169.94**

"Undie Sunday" Thank You

Thank you! We so appreciate the donated items and willingness of the group to serve at the Street Outreach Center. (The Youth Group fixed a lunch for the Center's clients.)

Thanks so much for making a difference in the lives of homeless youth!

Angela Heim
Youth Emergency Services

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 Counselor at St. Paul, Julie Lord.

A Letter from Bishop Rubin Saenz Jr.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am sure you, like me, have been deeply troubled since hearing or reading about the events stemming from deplorable racism displayed last weekend by white nationalists and supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia. The circumstances there that led directly to the death of Heather D. Heyer, the indirect deaths of two law enforcement officers, and injuries to 34 people serve as yet another reminder that the United States has not put racial tensions behind it—not even close.

What happened in Virginia is a senseless act of blatant racism that is increasingly reemerging as a normal state of affairs in our society. This “Unite the Right” protest sought to drive a wedge further between people based on color and religion. It was not American. And it most certainly was not Christian.

I ask that you continue to remember the people of Charlottesville, Virginia, in your prayers. Please continue to pray and work for an end to the insidious persistence of deplorable racism in our country. Never tire of working for a more just world and for the dignity of all people. Make a positive contribution toward peace according to your particular opportunities and responsibilities. As Christians, let us ask Christ in prayer to see others with his eyes; as brothers and sisters, not rivals, statistics, and opponents. Let us transform our divided world by working to build bridges of peace, not walls of hostility.

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

The full text of Bishop Saenz’ letter can be found on bulletin boards in the church.

Today's Tip: Exercise to a Beat

Research shows that listening to your favorite tunes while working out could help you go farther, faster, longer, and with less discomfort.

Most people have an instinct to match their movements and expressions to music (tap their feet, move their head, or dance), even if they suppress it. Music helps distract you from fatigue and can make the whole experience more fun. As long as you don’t distract yourself from being safe when exercising outside, music is a great way to “amp up”.

We appreciate the delicious and healthy foods that have been brought to St. Paul as we move towards healthier eating in our congregation.

Good nutrition, exercise, worship, and prayer all contribute to being healthier in body, mind, and spirit over a lifetime.

Thank you from the Health Ministries Team!

To your health!

Health Ministry Team

Worship Attendance Average

Average worship attendance each month this year
(Saturday evening and Sunday morning)

Jan-188, Feb-226, March-205, April-273, May-202, June-195, July-182

Learning, Serving, Playing, Praying

The youth group attended a back to school Connect Event at Camp Fontanelle. There were young people from all over the eastern part of Nebraska and similar events were held at the same time at UMC camps all across the Great Plains Conference. Included were several 7th graders, the newest members of the youth group who are also in Pastor Scott's Confirmation class.

St. Paul youth also met at Putting Plus to play miniature golf and had a lot of fun together!

Beginning in September the Confirmation class will meet twice a month at the same time as the youth group. The youth group will be considering ways they can be prophets in the world in which they live. We will meet from 4-5:30 on Sunday afternoons on the 4th floor room called The Roof.

The Omaha area CROP Walk will be October 8th. Let any of the youth group members know if you'd like to sponsor them as we walk the neighborhood streets with other caring people. The funds from the CROP Walk are used to "end hunger one step at a time."

All 7-12 graders are welcome to attend and contribute to the group. Youth leadership is encouraged in planning ways we may serve, learn, and have fun together.

Friends are always welcome. Please call 402-306-9499 with any questions.

Thank you for your prayers and support, St. Paul people!

Rev. Marta Wheeler



St. Paul
United Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL

New School Year Begins
Sunday,
September 10

Sunday Mornings
at
10:30

Please Drop Off and Pick Up
Your Child/ren at the Appropriate
3rd Floor Classroom

All Children
Welcome
Ages 3-12
(through 6th grade)

Teachers Needed! Teachers and assistants are needed for our program. If you are interested - even on a part-time or on-call basis - contact the Church Office at (402) 556-2433.

City of Omaha Lead Hazard Control Program

The City of Omaha is looking for families who live in homes built before 1978 and have young children (under age 6) living in or visiting more than 60 hours annually. These families have the opportunity to enroll in the City's Lead Hazard Control Program.

This grant allows the city to assist these homeowners with reducing lead-based paint hazards. The work activity usually consists of replacing windows and sometimes doors on all levels of the house. The work also can include re-painting on the inside and outside of the house.

For further information, call Joy Stevens, Client Services Coordinator at 402-444-5150, ext. 2028.

UMW Update

September is a full month for St. Paul UMW. We start on Wednesday, September 6 at 9:30 in the parlor with Jeanie Brayman speaking about her 2016 trip to Cuba—everyone is welcome.

Saturday, September 23 and Sunday September 24 Harrietta Reynolds will be our speaker for UMW weekend. Her topic will be "Epworth Village and What it is to be a UMW Woman". Every time I read the Response magazine or the New World Outlook (both on the UMW shelf in the parlor) I am inspired by the work UMW does in teaching leadership and advocating for justice locally and internationally.

The Great Plains Conference UMW meeting is September 29-30 in York, NE. If you have not registered and want to go, email Jackie Pope, Registrar at jacalynpope@gmail.com as registration was due by August 21 (but maybe you can still go). Pat Leslie and Marjorie Shreve are going and would be glad to give you a ride.

For the UMW National Assembly May 18-20 in Columbus, Ohio a bus will leave from Lincoln on Wednesday, May 16 and return Monday, May 21. The cost is \$900. Included in this estimate is travel, lodging, Assembly Registration, and Saturday lunch. All other meals are each person's responsibility. Contact Deanna Holland GPACUMW@gmail.com if interested. Deanna needs to know by SEPT 30.

Thanks to all who have and are continuing to contribute to the NO-BAKE BAKE SALE, it has been a great success to support missions!

As St. Paul UMW we will join the Great Plains in praying for the Bishop's Commission on a Way Forward on Thursday, September 7 from 8-9 AM. This is St. Paul's time to join in the Great Plains Conference's week of daily prayer and fasting for the work of the Commission to be creative and effective in furthering the mission of making disciples as they wrestle with the issue of sexual orientation and the church.

Marjorie Shreve, UMW President

Roots & Wings Educational Mission Trip

Tessa Randall was one of 21 youth from four Omaha Methodist churches who went to Washington, DC, in August. While there, the group visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Martin Luther King Memorial to gain a deep appreciation for those who sacrificed to pave the way for freedoms many enjoy today. Peace with Justice Special Sunday offering grants helped make the trip possible.

Benson Farmers Market

The Benson Farmers Market is located at the Omaha Home for Boys, 4343 N. 52nd St (52nd & Ames), every Saturday, rain or shine, through September 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, September 30, at Legends Patio Grill. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Legends Patio Grill, 6910 N. 102 Circle, at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



Book Club

"Upstairs at the White House" by J. B. West is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their September meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, September 9, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

SEPTEMBER 2017

UMW NEWS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

HOSTING IN SEPTEMBER

Naomi & Rebecca

OCTOBER

Ruth

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

Reminder:

Women's Retreat at St. Benedict Campus near Schuyler, Nebraska,

October 1-2

If interested in going, please call the church office (402-556-2433).

Next Meeting:

September 6

Coffee at 9:30 in the Parlor,
Program at 10:00

Jeanie Brayman, retired Creighton Prep English teacher,

will share highlights of her

October 2016 trip to Cuba—

the political and artistic culture and

the opportunities available in

today's ever-changing Cuba.

All are welcome!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

UMW Weekend, September 23/24

With Harrietta Reynolds, who will update us on Epworth Village and what it means to be a United Methodist Woman.

Conference Annual Meeting

September 29/30 at York, Nebraska

See registration online or on UMW bulletin board. \$30 for Friday evening & Saturday lunch + meeting.

Prayer Calendar Birthday for September 2 is Sarah Roemer (GMF US-2). Mission Witness concerns "Teachers Touch Eternity. One Student at a Time."

Christian Sympathy

To Lynda & Jim Madison & family in the death of Lynda's mother.

To Mike & Jenny Skow in the death of Mike's father.

To Betty Johnson & family in the death of Betty's sister-in-law.

To Lois Corbaley & family in the death of her husband, Lew.

Congratulations

To Chris & Bill Wallace, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 26.

To Kris Bargaen & Zack Wilcox, who were married at St. Paul on August 12.

To Hector and Sebastian, who were baptized on August 13. They have been active members of our youth group for the last year.

To Amy Moore & Matthew Shepard on the baptism of their daughter, Taylor Anne; and to Jessica Borg on the baptism of her son, Ashton Carl. Both Taylor and Ashton were baptized on August 13.



Recent Hospitalizations

Clay Kinman, Lois Corbaley, Milford Spicka, Charlotte Schmidt

Honorariums

For Susie Robinson—Anonymous

For U.M. Women, Great Plains Conference—Jerry Brabec

Memorials

For Virginia Richards—Peg Reed, Deb Winslow & Family, Don Wilcox, W. Dennis Blankenbeckler, Joseph & Joyce Schwartz, Donald & Rebecca Etter, Thomas & Brenda Gustafson, Bonnie Hollingsworth, Betty Piskorski, Shirley DeVasure, Betty & John Pestal, Patricia Rahn, Ann LeBlanc, Gene & Betty McGrue, Beulah Rokahr, Walter & Dorothy Sharp, Pat Ladika, Hegarty Family, Mrs. J. J. Richards Family, Don & Marie Fey, Tim & Mary Kay Hagerty, Darlene Deupree, Marilyn Titze, Gloria Ericksen, John L. Hegarty, Jr., Joline Sorensen, R. L. Linder, Wesley & Mary Wolfe, Jerry Brabec, Roger & Jane McLendon

For Jeffrey Bruner, Joanna & Bob Lonneckner

For Genevieve Cummings—Jerry Brabec

Thank You

Sending thank you thoughts to all for your thoughts, visits and prayers while I was in Maple Crest Rehabilitation Center. Special thanks to Rev. Shreve and Rev. Wheeler for their visits and prayers.

Delores Wolsleben

Many thanks to all of you who sent cards, made calls, visited or prayed for me during my recent illness. Each meant a great deal! God bless my St. Paul family.

Jackie Pospisil

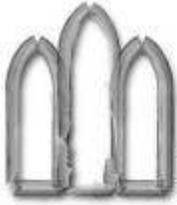


Stephen Ministry in Action

From a Stephen Ministry care receiver:

I've heard the phrase "the peace of God that passes all understanding" many times in church. My Stephen Minister has helped me experience that peace in a very real, very heartfelt way.

Anne



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



inWorship

Saturday Evenings

5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday Morning September 3

10:00 a.m.—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. African & Bhutan Services

Sunday Mornings September 10, 17 & 24

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.

Saint Paul in **Spiration**