

MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

Inspiration

September 2019

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

This September, we consider the theme of hospitality in worship and in our activities at church. We've got two fun events planned to bookend our month – Benson's First Friday on September 6th and our CROPWalk on Sunday the 29th. I've not been to the Benson First Friday makers market yet, so I'm not sure how to describe it – something about a lot of fun, Maple Street being blocked off, people shopping and hanging out – but I do know we are partnering with Ten Thousand Villages in Lincoln to host a booth with handmade Fair Trade artisan crafts from around the world. We are seeking volunteers to help with greeting guests and hanging out nearby in our church t-shirts; there will be a sign-up for these activities at Mission Central in the sanctuary.

On the last Sunday of the month, we will be hosting a CROPWalk. Omaha's committee is encouraging congregations to plan their own events this year rather than hold a single event, so we chose the Fifth Sunday in September in the hopes that the weather would be good and we would catch people on an "unscheduled" day. We will begin with a pet blessing at 2:00 p.m., and then set out on our walk. You can help us end hunger in both the Metro and around the globe by inviting friends and family to join us for this walk. 25% of donations will benefit No More Empty Pots and Saving Grace, with 75% supporting hunger programs through Church World Service. Donations can be made online or the day of the event.

Our hospitality includes the welcome we extended to refugees in our neighborhood. I want to thank everyone who helped with the BART clothing closet, both setting up and the day of the event. I've been able to meet the pastors of both the African and Nepalese congregations who worship at Saint Paul on Sundays, and they have asked me to extend their thanks to you for the warm welcome they have received.

I look forward to continuing to get to know you and hearing the stories of how we can #DoGood together both in the Benson neighborhood and across our city and around the world. Together, we continue to broaden our understanding of what it means to be neighbors and extend the hospitality we have found in our understanding of God's vast love.

Grace and Peace
Rev Stephanie Ahlschwede

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.

September Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 1
One Worship Service
at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Monday, September 9
Church Council Meeting
at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Sunday, September 15
New Member Lunch
at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Wednesday, September 18
M&M Worship Service
at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

September 21 & 22
UMW Weekend

Sunday, September 29
Pet Blessing and CROPWalk
(Pet Blessing at 2:00 p.m.,
CROPWalk at 2:20 p.m.)

Saint Paul Benson

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Julie Lord, *LIMHP & PLADC*
Tabitha Jameson, *MA, LIMHP*

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!

As of July 31, 2019 - Income \$285,410

Council Connection – September

The next meeting of the Church Council will be held Monday, September 09 at 7PM in the Parlor. All are invited to attend to listen, learn, and participate in the discussion. While the agenda for the September meeting is still being finalized, topics of discussion come from the activities of a wide variety of Saint Paul teams and ministries.

At the July Charge Conference, members of Saint Paul voted to change the make-up of the Saint Paul Foundation Board and welcomed Rev. Ahlschwede and her husband, Todd Wyatt.

This month's New Business will include details of the Advent Fair, plans to update member contact info, and reports on disbursement of Memorial funds and staff budget activities.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this (or any other) meeting of the Church Council.

Foil the Scammers

If you receive an email or text that appears to be from one of our staff asking for cash or gift cards, please delete it or mark it as "junk." Requests for donations for our community partners will be found in this newsletter, the bulletin and official social media posts of the church, never as individual requests from staff members.

New Member Luncheon

Calling all new members of Saint Paul ~ Benson (those brought into membership since *January 01, 2018!*) and any who might be considering membership or wanting more information about being a United Methodist at Saint Paul! You are cordially invited to meet with clergy and other church leaders following morning worship on **Sunday, September 15** at 11:45 in the Clark Parlor. We will enjoy a lite lunch and each other's company as we casually reflect on what participation in the ministry of Saint Paul ~ Benson can mean. Hear a few stories of the possibilities to explore your faith journey more deeply, participate in the leadership activities of the church, or just know more about those present. All in all a great time to consider how it is the church works for and with you! Please **RSVP** to the office or any of your clergy by Friday, September 13 to reserve your spot.

Divorce Care Group

Urban Abbey is sponsoring a group to deal with caring for your spirit when relationships are straining. There will be five sessions starting Monday, September 16 and ending October 14. All will be held at 6:30 at Urban Abbey, 1026 Jackson Street. Registration is \$50, and scholarships are available. For more information or to enroll, email rebecca@urbanabbeyomaha.com.

in Worship

We've heard it our whole lives and said it plenty; "when things get back to normal..." and sometimes, they do! This September we'll see a return of children's Sunday school and youth group. The Choir and Joy Bells begin regular rehearsals, to which any are cordially invited. Teams begin meeting and, oh yes...there's a new lead Pastor among us! For some, the routine of these days seems normal, but we remember Rev. Ahlschwede will find all of it quite extraordinary. Thank the Holy Spirit (and Bishop Saenz) for sending new life our direction once again!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated as part of the Labor Day holiday weekend. Lorraine Hahn will serve as guest musician at the Saturday evening, **August 31** service and the Fusion Band will offer ministry *through* music at the third single-Sunday-service, **September 01** at 10:00 a.m. Pastors Stephanie and Marta begin a five month sermon series on Robert Schnase's book "The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" with this month's focus on Radical Hospitality. Watch for exciting ways that you might engage in study of this mind changing read.

The Choir will join 10:30 worship on **September 08** as they return to their Sunday morning schedule. Joy Bells will continue their third weekend ministry at all services **September 21/22**.

Back in the line-up of worship offerings is the M & M service held the third Wednesday of each month, beginning **September 18** with a special service of healing for mind, body and spirit. With the approach of fall and as the days begin to shorten we will continue our worship at **6:00 p.m.** The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at each gathering.

We welcome guest speaker, Esther Hay on **September 21/22** as we observe United Methodist Women's weekend. Esther has held many UMW leadership positions at the local, conference, jurisdictional and national levels and currently serves as president of the Great Plains Conference UMW. Esther will help us celebrate the incredible ministry of teaching that UMW provides, not only for women who participate, but for men and children as well.

The closing weekend of **September 28/29** will honor the music of Jane Marshall in 5:00 and 10:30 worship. Ms. Marshall was considered the grand dame of United Methodist musical circles and it was a true pleasure to call her a colleague. She was an inspiration to many church musicians and composers of all ages. Ms. Marshall was 94 at the time of her death in Dallas this past May 29. At Saint Paul Church we remember her collaboration with the Rev. John Thornburg as they gifted the congregation with "The Church Has Called Them Saints" which we sing each All Saints Day. The great cloud/crowd of eternal witnesses sings a bit more in tune and with a bigger smile now that Jane has joined their number. We thank God for her ministry and presence among us.

Benson First Friday

Join your friends from St Paul at Benson First Friday, September 6th. We are waiting for final confirmation but hope to host a booth at the makers market on Radial, featuring Fair Trade items from around the world from Ten Thousand Villages. Volunteers are needed to greet customers and encourage people to visit our booth. If you are interested in helping, hour long shifts begin at 4pm - let the office know if you would like to come help!

Medical Closet Reminder

Saint Paul Benson has a closet with medical supplies that are waiting to be loaned out. There are wheel-chairs, canes, walkers, bath chairs, and various other items. A complete list can be found on the Saint Paul Benson website (www.stpaulomaha.org) under the Health Ministry tab. These medical items are available for use by our members and their families.

A recent addition to the medical closet is a CPAP machine.

Give the church office a call at 402-556-2433 if you need to borrow any of the items in the medical closet.

Pets and Steps! - St Paul Benson Pet Blessing and CROPWalk, Sunday September 29th

Come join us as we enjoy an afternoon outside together!

At 2pm we begin with a pet blessing in the church courtyard.

Friends and pets are welcome to join us whether or not they are walking in the CROPWalk! (please have your dogs on a leash).

We will step off from the north side of St Paul Benson (54th and Radial in Omaha) at 2:20 pm and enjoy a walk through the Benson Area. You can expect the route to be short, paved and flat.

25% of the donations for hunger relief will be kept local and split between No More Empty Pots and Saving Grace.

75% of the donations will be sent to Church World Service (CWS) hunger relief to dig wells, provide food and water and other resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools to wells and water systems, the key is people working together to identify their own priorities.

Donations will be accepted by youth after worship Sept. 22nd and 29th, via our team page, or make a donation the day of the event.

Thanks for supporting CROP, our neighborhood, and our family friends.

August Blood Drive

Thank you to the ten people who volunteered to give blood at the blood drive on Sunday, August 4 here at Saint Paul.

Benson Area Refugee Task Force

The August 24th Clothes Closet went well. 150 adults came through with 30-35 children.

We gave away 80 bookbags and lots of school supplies and clothes. We had 9 volunteers on Thursday and 16 volunteers on Saturday. St Paul contributed 11 volunteers. Thank you all so much!!

Dhan Maya Rai passed her citizenship test! The next Taskforce meeting is Thursday, September 12 in Rm 109 at 4 pm and all are welcome.

Habitat House

As you may know the long cold and snowy winter, followed by a swampy spring, has put the build a bit behind on the build schedule. Saturday, August 24, should have been the end of the Faith House Build, but there is still a few weeks of work left and Habitat could use some volunteers. If you can help out, you can go to the online volunteer registration link, <http://cerv.is/m?0119gF9oLgR> to sign up.



**August Special Offering for
Habitat for Humanity
\$581.00**

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 Saint Paul Church, Julie Lord and Tabitha Jameson, 402-354-6891 x 23.

An Art Group Meets at St. Paul

Did you know there is an Art Group that meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. in room 109? We are looking for more individuals that might enjoy the chance to draw, paint, or do another art activity and someone that enjoys some good conversation. We usually average 5-6 women each time and would love to add to our group. Men are certainly welcome, too! You don't need any particular skill but just enjoy the process of creating something. Each participant donates \$2 for the use of the room for two hours. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Minikus at kminikus@msn.com Come and check us out.

Let's Keep Recycling, St. Paul!

A reminder that the city waste collector continues to collect the special orange recycling bags designed to recover things like candy wrappers, foam to-go boxes, foam cups and plates, cake mix liners and packing peanuts which are not currently allowed in the green bins. You can find these bags for sale at most HyVee stores.

New this month, your Green Team is encouraging you to recycle any dense styrofoam, also known as expanded styrofoam (EPS). This is the very rigid form used in inexpensive ice chests (ala Omaha Steaks delivery) or found as packaging for flat screen displays or other electronics. Omaha is fortunate to have a recycler, Plastilite Corporation, who collects this material free of charge. So do your part and bring in your (cleaned) EPS styrofoam items to the collection box at the back of the sanctuary and your Green Team will see that it gets delivered to the recycler later this month.

Our App is Live!

You may now load the new church app to your smart phone. Search for "Saint Paul Benson" where you get your apps.

Check the latest church calendar and find out about upcoming events. More updates will be coming.



Learning, Serving, Praying, and Playing

Saint Paul Benson youth attended the annual Connect Event at Camp Fontanelle.

We joined youth from the Blue River, Missouri River, and Elkhorn Valley Districts. New friends were made, we lept up high on the jumping pillows, sailed through the trees on the zip-line, pet the bunnies, sheep, goats and alpacas, and participated in great worship.

Sunday, September 08, 4-5:30 pm—Youth Group—wear your walking shoes. Let's plan to walk through Benson and map out St. Paul's CROP Walk. A stop at Ted & Wally's may occur!



Thursday, September 19, 6-8 pm—Assist with the Simon Says Birthday Party Project for children and teens at the Open Door Mission. This is our way of giving back after winning the scholarship that enabled us to experience the white water rafting and high ropes course on the Mission Trip in June. Read more at <https://www.facebook.com/SimonSaysFoundation/>

We plan to help lead games, bake and serve pizza and cupcakes, and help each child know they are special and loved.

Sunday, September 29, 2:20 pm—CROP Walk led by Saint Paul Youth and Mercy and Justice Team.

The CROP Walk has changed this year! We will invite other churches to St. Paul to walk with us and also participate in the Pet Blessing. The Blessing will be at 2:00 pm.

We plan to leave our church at 2:20 pm. There will be an event posted on FB where people can sponsor walkers.

You may also leave funds in the office or with youth group members in order to support agencies in Omaha that are working to eliminate hunger.

The Olive Crest Youth Group may join us at times and friends are always welcome!

Thank you for support provided and love given to each of the youth.

Rev. Marta Wheeler
402-902-8545

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.)

Did you know that there are 25 full or part time employees at Saint Paul Church, 15 in the Child Development Center alone? It takes a lot of people-power to sustain the ministry of this congregation, and some are paid for their service. But the real ministry of the church is provided by the hundreds of volunteer hours logged each week by YOU, the members and friends of Saint Paul ~ Benson. Without YOU worship would be less inspiring, phones would not get answered, grounds would not get weeded, coffee would not be made, outreach to those in hospital would not be accomplished, Sunday school and Vacation Bible School would not be offered...and on and on! Suffice it to say, without YOU God's mission would be less effective from this corner of the Benson neighborhood and in our city. YOU can do so much...Luke 12:48 states, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with **much, much** more will be asked."

There are so many possibilities for where YOU might serve and a visit with one of the clergy might provide insight for where that opportunity may lay. And so, in this Fall season be prayerfully listening for what volunteer effort YOU might offer...making music, ushering, serving a team or committee, driving the Sunday morning van, teaching or assisting in the classroom...not only will God smile, but the entire body of Christ will be richer for the gifts YOU give.



Join Us!

SAINT PAUL BENSON

Women's Retreat

Spiritual Watercolor

Awaken and celebrate your own creativity using the wonders of watercolor paint! You are invited to be playful in your spiritual life while partnering with God's creative Spirit.

Very easy watercolor techniques will be taught, focusing on the process rather than the end product, and NO previous art experience is necessary!

Our facilitator is Glenda Dietrich Moore of Lincoln NE. Her arts ministry, "Creation Energy," celebrates faith, visual expression and the vibrancy of life.

Learn more online:
www.GlendaDietrich.com

OCTOBER 20 & 21
SAINT BENEDICT CENTER
SCHUYLER, NEBRASKA

INCLUDING LODGING, MEALS
AND ART SUPPLIES
\$105/DOUBLE ROOM OR
\$115/SINGLE

CONTACT REV. MARTA WHEELER
TO REGISTER BEFORE SEPT. 13
MWHEELER@STPAULOMAHA.ORG
OR 402.556.2433

OR REGISTER ONLINE BY CLICKING ON
[women's retreat registration](#)

SEPTEMBER 2019

UMW NEWS



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Vice President

Mary Stolzer

Secretary

Connie Crawford

Treasurer

Lorraine Hahn

Advisor

Kathy Rice

Mission Focus

Caribbean UMW, Regional Missionary Serna Samuel, providing leadership and mission program development for women and youth.

Mission Witness

David G. Schultz, Interim Executive Director, Wesley House Community Center, Meridian, Mississippi, writes that they attempt to reach out in mission through our food, pantries, closets and assistance. However all too often the mission is God reaching out to us through smiles, gratitude and appreciation.

Box Tops for Education

Save for Rose Hill Elementary School

Meeting on Wednesday, September 4

- Our speaker for the September 4 meeting is from the Assistance League, which represents women dedicated to Operation School Bell. Their role is to provide clothes and items needed by the under-served children of the Omaha Public Schools.
- A list of new books will be presented by Sylvia Coon.
 - A new slate of officers will be addressed by the Nominating Committee.

Saint Paul Benson's UMW Weekend

UMW weekend will be September 21-22. The speaker will be Esther Hay from Waverly, Nebraska, who was the first president of the Great Plains United Methodist Women (2014-2016) and is dean of Great Plains Cooperative Mission U at Kearney and vice president of the board of directors of Epworth Village. She also served on the Big Garden Project for several years.

Save the Date!

District UMW Meeting on Saturday, October 12 at Omaha First United Methodist, 7020 Cass Street Rev. Marta Wheeler will be speaking at this meeting.

Bake Sale & Mini Mart

The next Bake Sale & Mini Mart will be the weekend of November 16-17.

Welcome

We welcome Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede and her husband Todd Wyatt to Saint Paul Benson as she leads us in ministry in the community.

Hospitalizations

Penne Carpenter, Carl Clark, Bob Gatzemeyer, Joan Swanson, LaRue Edwards, Shirley Higbee

Memorials

For Mildred Taylor—Vance Taylor

For Peg Reed—Vance Taylor

For Shirley Edwards—Vance Taylor

You are Invited

To a Celebration of Life & 70th Anniversary for Alice & Vernon Goff on Sunday, September 8, starting at 2:00 p.m. at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 11810 Burke Street. Rev. Vernon Goff was an Associate Pastor at St. Paul from 1960 to 1964. Please RSVP to Kandy Duncan by email: kandy.duncan@gmail.com.

New Member



Patrick
Porter

Stephen Ministry

St. Paul Benson has been participating in the Stephen Series, a program that equips laypeople to do caring ministry, since 2013. Why the Stephen Series? The Stephen Series trains people in the basic skills necessary for helping others. Through lecture, discussion, and experiential learning, people learn everything they need for this caring ministry—how to be an effective listener, specific techniques for ministering to grieving people, and more. Our congregation will reap many blessings through our involvement in this ministry of care.

Kathy Rice, Director of Stephen Ministry

Book Club

Fear, by Bob Woodward, is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their September meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, September 14, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

Christian Sympathy

To Ellis & Jeanne Roussell and family in the death of Ellis' aunt.

To Carol and Richard Behrens and family in the death of Carol's sister.

To Bob and Joanna Lonnecker in the death of their son.

Honorariums

For Jan Biga—Joan Clements

Congratulations

To Joslyn Jensen and Daniel Widdershoven, who were married at St. Paul on July 27.

To Phillip and Amber Rudolf in the baptism of their son, Taron Lee, on July 27. Taron's great-grandmother is Jackie Farnsworth.



The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, September 21, at Legends. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship, or meet the group at Legends, 6920 Pacific Street, at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome.





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OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68104

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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WORSHIP

5:00 PM
Saturday Casual
Roth Chapel



10:00 AM—September 1
Sunday Combined Service
Sanctuary

9:15 AM—September 8, 15, 22, 29
Sunday Contemporary Fusion
Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM—September 8, 15, 22, 29
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
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