



In the forty-plus years of serving United Methodist congregations I have heard many analogies applied to the life of a congregation. I remember as a young pastor when a pastor with years of experience said to me, "The church is like an apple tree. You have to feed the roots in order to have fruit." That analogy has served me well over the years because it does apply to many aspects of church life. For example, if a person doesn't practice the disciplines of the faith (prayer, reading scripture, attending worship, etc.) the fruit of the faith has a limited harvest! We find the foundation of our faith weakened. There is a church sign in my neighborhood here in Omaha that reads: Seven days without prayer leave one "weak!" Another application of this analogy is the area of the church's ability to be strong in mission and ministry. If we allow our financial support to become weak, so does our ability to support the people, the place, and the supplies needed to produce the fruits of a healthy, well nourished congregation.

Saint Paul U.M.C. is one of the largest Christian presences in the Benson community. We have a history of delivering a "bountiful harvest" in the areas of family support, nurturing individuals in their faith and reaching out into the world with the love of Jesus Christ. We have noticed that we are needing to address our financial support to Saint Paul U.M.C. We need to "feed the tree" in order to receive the harvest of a dynamic ministry. And there are things we can do to assure the harvest will continue to be bountiful. For example, did you know you can sign up for automatic withdrawal for your weekly or monthly giving? If you are interested, call the church office and visit with Connie, our Financial Secretary. Did you know we have a QR code and you can use your smart phone to make a contribution? OR you can use the offering plate at any of our worship services!

During the month of June we will be planting "giving trees" around our building. They will have apples hanging from them. Special apples that you can pick and they will have various ministries, and supplies for ministry listed on them. Pick one and place it with your donation in the offering plate, or in one of our baskets for the harvest! Let's see what kind of harvest we will experience in the weeks ahead! It will be a "double" harvest – what we give and what our giving will allow to happen.

Have a Blessed Harvest!

Dr. Keith W. Johnson, Lead Pastor

Heritage Celebration

As part of worship on the weekend of June 13/14, we will honor those 50, 60 and 75 year members of the Methodist tradition—Methodist Episcopal, Evangelical United Brethren and others. If you will be celebrating any of those milestones of membership, we ask that you contact the church office (402-556-2433) so that we might arrange a certificate for presentation at the service which you attend.



Saint Paul Church

5410 Corby St.
Omaha, NE 68104
402-556-2433
FAX 402-556-2372

Website:

www.stpaulomaha.org

E-mail:

saintpaul@stpaulomaha.org

Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson
Lead Pastor

Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

Kathy Rice
Director of Stephen Ministry

Doug Olson
Youth & Adult Ministries

Sue Bobek,
Membership Secretary &
Administrative Assistant to the
Lead Pastor

Connie Almgren
Financial Secretary

Sue Bacon
Communications Coordinator

Derek Wolfe
Building Engineer

St. Paul Child Care & Preschool

402-556-3885
Katy Smith, Director

Community Counseling

402-551-6377
Mary Kate Hoffman, LMHP

The Inspiration is published monthly. Information is due to the editor by the 19th of the month to be included in the next issue.

Editor: Sue Bacon

To contact the editor:
Phone 402-556-2433
Email

sbacon@stpaulomaha.org

Address: .. 5410 Corby Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Our 2015 Confirmands

Seven young people were confirmed at the 11:05 a.m. worship service on May 17. There was a reception in their honor following the service.



Dr. Keith Johnson, Braedon Magathan, Cole Niebur, Reagan Kelly, Tessa Randall, Kara Smith, Sara Jabens, Autumn Magathan

Great Plains Annual Conference

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — United Methodists in Africa, Europe, the Philippines and the United States are preparing for — or have already attended — annual conference meetings. During these regional legislative meetings, clergy and laity elected by local churches will establish 2015 budgets, consider resolutions regarding social justice issues and recognize retiring clergy. The ordination service for clergy is a highlight of every session.

This paragraph from the United Methodist News Service reminds us that as United Methodists this is the time of the year when our local churches send its clergy and lay members to annual conference. Our Great Plains Annual Conference this year is in Wichita, KS, June 10 – 13. The theme this year is “Though Many, One.” Saint Paul will have El Seibert and Cheryl Adamson as our lay members to annual conference. We have been studying our workbooks and preparing to engage in prayer, discussions and voting! Please keep your clergy and lay members to annual conference in your prayers.

United Methodist Church donates \$9.6 million to Global Fund

A \$9.6 million check presented April 22 by the people of The United Methodist Church is the largest contribution from a faith-based organization ever received by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.



Ordinary Time

On the Christian liturgical calendar the days following Pentecost to the First Sunday of Advent are known as Ordinary Time. Being celebrated in two segments, it also marks the days after Epiphany up to Ash Wednesday. This makes it the largest season of the liturgical year. In some United Methodist churches these next twenty-five weeks are referred to as *Kingdomtide*, focusing on the works of charity and discipline. You will see the color green used for worship until Labor Day with red being the primary color until the Advent season.

Early June Worship Services

Worship June **06/07** will include a time of vacation bible school kickoff, with the congregation learning a song or two from the VBS 2015...the G Force! Celebrating our Methodist heritage will be the focus of worship June **13/14** with the Solid Brass Quartet offering special music worship at 8:15 and 11:05. We will honor those who have been a member of the United Methodist Church or its antecedents for 50, 60 or 75 years at each service. The Joy Bell Ensemble will begin a well deserved summer vacation after gracing worship these first weeks, as well.

June M&M Worship Service

Our final mid-month M & M service held Wednesday, June **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." It has been a rewarding and, often times, emotional journey as we have heard testimony from each of the participants, hearing their stories of faith and witness. We will celebrate 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!

Late June Worship Services

While our Lead Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson, seeks some summer respite, the pulpit will be filled by several well qualified quest preachers. As part of worship on June **20/21** the congregation will hear from the new members of the Micah Corps for 2015 and the newly local licensed pastor, The Rev. Doug Olson. The Great Plains Annual Conference Mercy and Justice Ministries is once again sponsoring this group of young adults whose experience helps deepen their walk with God, learn about connecting their faith with social justice, and practice leadership skills throughout the conference. This will be the Corps first presentation of their 10-week summer internship program. Come and be transformed through stories of faith as shared by these young disciples. As for Rev. Olson, this will be his first time preaching since receiving licensing by action of the Great Plains Annual Conference. Special music this weekend will be provided by Lorraine Hahn and Sharon Staal at the 5:00 service and Julie Sandene, guest organist, at 8:15 and 11:05. Closing June worship on **27/28** will be The Rev. Susan Sanders. Many will remember Susan as our associate pastor from 2003-2006. She will bring a message of joy and enthusiasm complimented with special music.

One Sunday Worship Service on July 5

The fourth of our super single Sunday services will be **July 05**. The theme of this national holiday will be reflected in the 10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary. Special musical guests Nola Jean-Pierre, soprano, and David Schack, organist, will join us for worship. There will be no children's or youth Sunday school, so plan to worship with the entire family as you enjoy this extended weekend. The Saturday evening service will be held in Roth Chapel at 5:00 p.m.

Summer Worship Schedule

Many metro churches alter their worship schedules during the summer to make it more convenient for their congregants. So, be a supportive participant in this two month alteration of worship times beginning **July 12**, choosing between the service in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 or in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. (or enjoy both!), and bring a guest to enjoy the heartwarming experience that is summer worship at St. Paul. If Sundays don't work, we'll continue to look for you Saturday evening at 5:00!

Health Kits

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.

Health Kit Value: \$12 per kit

Health Kit Materials

- **1 hand towel** (15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches)
 - o Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable.
 - **1 washcloth**
 - **1 comb** (Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long; No pocket combs or picks please)
 - o Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth.
 - **1 metal nail file or nail clippers** (No emery boards, please.)
 - **1 bath-size soap** (3 oz. and larger sizes only; No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content)
 - o Do not remove from original packaging.
 - **1 toothbrush** (Adult size only; Do not remove from original packaging.)
 - **6 adhesive bandages** (¾ inch to 1 inch-size; Common household Band-Aids.)
 - **1 plastic bag** (One-gallon size sealable bag only.)
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste**

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging, unless otherwise specified.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items, nothing more.
- Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Assembly instructions are available in the church office or online in the What's New section of the Saint Paul website (www.stpaulomaha.org). Please bring kits to the church office by June 7 so they can be taken to Annual Conference.

A Thank You

Thanks to Saint Paul members for the great support of the 6th Annual OTOC Spring Fundraiser. This year's Silent Auction was the most successful one yet. Mark your calendars now to "Save the Date" for April 16, 2016, when we celebrate our 7th!

Book Sale Update

Thanks to the Christian Adventure Class and the United Methodist Men, for hosting the used book sale. The final tally isn't complete, but is close to \$300 dollars at this time. As always, the money is applied to the church's Mission Share.

Save your books for another sale next year!



**May
Peace
with Justice
Special Offering
\$462.53**

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Saint Paul Youth attended Box City 2015, an annual event to raise awareness of homelessness and hunger in our community. They spent the night on the lawn of First United Methodist Church, along with approximately 80 other youth and adults from various churches around the city, without eating anything from dusk to dawn. They learned about how hard it is having to rely on donations from food pantries to

put meals on the table, heard a presentation from a Youth Emergency Services worker, who was also homeless once, and put together donation bags of toothbrushes, shampoo and other hygiene items to be given to Pearl Pantry. Additionally, each youth and adult donated \$5 and 5 cans of soup, also for Pearl Pantry. While it was a learning experience, everyone did have a good time!



Youth Group will be assisting with recreation for Vacation Bible School Sunday June 7 – Wednesday June 10 from 5 – 8 pm. If you are interested in helping (I REALLY need an adult volunteer Tuesday & Wednesday as I'll be gone to Annual Conference!), please contact Doug Olson via email (dolson@greatplainsumc.org) or call the church.

Adult Ministries

The Tuesday Study Group continues every Tuesday at 10 am. We are currently learning more about applying Wesleyan principles in our lives, reading Bishop Ruben Job's book 3 Simple Rules. The rules come to us from John Wesley himself, and they are: Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. They do sound simple, but we often find that living according to them is more difficult than we expect. Join us for Tai Chi at 9:30 in the Parlor, and then move to the Library for our study group at 10.

Book Club

"The Sisterhood" by Helen Bryan is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their June meeting. Because they don't meet in July and August, they have also picked the September book. It will be "Walking Across Egypt" by Clyde Edgerton.

The Book Club will meet on Saturday, June 13, at 8:30 a.m. Although the club usually meets at Immanuel Village, they will be meeting at a different location in June because of Immanuel Village's renovations. For more information, please call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.

2015 Notable Nineties

Members of Saint Paul UMC who are almost ninety years old or older were treated to a brunch on Saturday, May 16. A delicious meal was prepared and served by Mary Lou Dohe, helped by Steve Dohe, Zach and Amy Scherb. Entertainment was a salute to the 50th anniversary of "The Sound of Music." With Jerry Brabec at the piano, Lorraine Hahn, Kim Alger and Doug Olson sang five memorable songs in between a narrative of facts regarding the musical. Honorees were also given an Edelweiss charm to commemorate their morning.



Front Row: Estelle Potter, Glennis Stout, Joyce Black, Joan Swanson, Ruby Meck, Jane Crannell, Howard Roberts, Margaret Erts.

Back Row: Betty Edwards, Frank Webber, Stan Richards, Jean Bailey, Clyde Arnold, Jean Schmid, Virginia Grove, Lew Klanderud, Dave DeGroff, Marge McCary, Ralph Erts

Vacation Ideas

Are you traveling this summer and looking for some unique places to visit? Did you ever think of visiting some of the places of interest to United Methodists?

Philadelphia, Penn, is the location of TWO churches that are important to our Methodist history. They are Mother African Zoar United Methodist Church, a stop on the Underground Railroad; and Tindley Temple, the home church of Rev. Charles Albert Tindley, one of the founding fathers of Gospel music.

Alaska is where you will find the Christmas and Easter Totem poles at Saint John United Methodist Church. They are a sacred gift given to the Native Alaskan people, crafted by a retired United Methodist pastor. They tell the Christmas and Easter stories in the Native American tradition

Maryland is the home of the First Methodist meeting place, called The Strawbridge Shrine. This is where the seeds of Methodism were planted in the New World by Robert and Elizabeth Strawbridge when they came to the New World from Ireland. Robert was one who traveled on horseback for long periods to preach and hold circuit meetings. Elizabeth cooked meals and led Bible studies for her neighbors.

New York City is where you will find John Street United Methodist Church which is 250 years old! You will find our treasure among the buildings of Wall Street. Inside is a clock given to the church by John Wesley.

There are many more "treasures" of our United Methodist Church in the United States and around the world. Consider visiting one on your vacation and then come home and tell us what you found!



**Sunday, June 7 through
Wednesday, June 10
Dinner from 5:00-5:50 p.m.
VBS from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Preschool age 4
through 5th Grade**

**There are special guests stopping
by on Wednesday night, so you
won't want to miss the fun!**

**Please register online at:
2015.cokesburyvbs.com/Stpaulomaha
or pick up a registration form in the church office.**

**Volunteers needed: Teachers, assistant teachers,
recreation helpers, science lab, dinner &
snack helpers, youth helpers, and VBS prep.
Contact Amy Avila at arjavila@msn.com
or call the church office at (402)556-2433.**

UMW NEWS

Featuring the activities of the United Methodist Women of Saint Paul UMC. JUNE 2015

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:
Kathy Rice
Vice President
Linda Mead
Secretary
Jackie Pospisil
Ass't. Secretary
Jan Walker
Treasurer
Pat Leslie
Advisor
Judy Stransky

Our June 3rd Meeting will feature

ANN HERZINGER

Speaking on
“Wellbeing...it’s not just food”

All women of the church are welcome to attend. Coffee is served at 9:30 followed by the program and general meeting at 10am.

HOSTESSES

JUNE RUTH CIRCLE

SEPTEMBER ESTHER CIRCLE

Church Women United will hold their Friendship Day luncheon May 26. The program will be a Human Rights celebration.

LET US PRAY FOR ALL OF OUR MISSIONARIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

BAKELESS BAKE SALES IN JULY AND AUGUST !

PLEASE SAVE LABELS FROM CAMPBELL SOUP (WHOLE LABELS) AND GENERAL MILLS PRODUCTS

Congratulations

To Nick Wilcox and Raechael Zabokrtsky on their May 2 marriage.

To Jim & Lynda Madison on the birth of their grandson, Elias James Isenberg, born May 9.

To our High School Graduates: McKenna Carnell, Jessica Cera, Justin Edwards, Charlotte Elsasser, Corey Mayer, Todd Pursel, Christopher Smith, Kaitlyn Waszak.

To Sara Jabens on her May 17 baptism.

To Boone Evans & Alli Jackson on their May 16 marriage.

To Doug & Celeste Olson on the birth of their grandson, Caleb Matthew Olson, born May 17.

Christian Sympathy

To the family of Ralph Hunter in his death.

To the family of Lucille Sullivan in her death.

To Rosemary Kramer & Audra Kramer in the death of Rosemary's companion, Roger Weblemoe.

To Steve & Denise Vandervort in the death of Steve's mother, Ann Vandervort.

Thank You

My sincere appreciation to my church family for all the special and gracious help and acts of kindness you so lovingly offered in my time of sorrow over the loss of my partner, Roger Weblemoe.

Rosemary and Audra Kramer

Thank You from Together, Inc.

Dear Singers, Directors and Those Attending:

On behalf of myself, the Board of Directors, the team, and those that attended the concert on Sunday, I wanted to send along our most sincere Thank You to all of you for the amazing journey of music that you took us on.

Thank you for the additional time and talent you have spent away from family and loved ones to practice and prepare to put on a show that was breathtaking. We have heard so many exciting and positive comments about the performance. Your talents are a gift from God and we so enjoyed listening to your beautiful voices.

Thank you,

Mike Hornacek

Executive Director, Together, Inc.

Recent Hospitalizations

Lew Klanderud, Ken Walker, Nick Stolzer

Memorials

For Beverly Bass—Jeff Bass

For Mary Buono—Judy Buono

For Ralph Hunter—Margaret Sterling, Gladys Lantz, Jim Boston, Martha Ann Orr,

For Shirley Brabec—Grace Beck, Susan Arnold

For Kurt Stecker—Grace Beck, Linda Mead, Susan Arnold

For Ray Kirchner—Linda Mead, Nadine Hunter, Chop's Lawn Care Inc., Gaylord & Gwen Marshall

For Michael Leed—Judy Leed

For Lucille Sullivan—Loretta & John Cosgrove, Margaret Reed, Victoria Menard, Gladys Lantz, Joyce Black, Martha Ann Orr, Daniel Sullivan, Jerry Brabec

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your visits, calls, and prayers during LaRue's recuperation.

LaRue and Shirley Edwards



The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, June 27, at Greek Islands, 3821 Center Street. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Greek Islands at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 636
OMAHA, NE
68108

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



in^Worship

Saturday Evening

5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday Morning

8:15 and 11:05 a.m.—Sanctuary

9:35 a.m. FUSION—Fellowship Hall

12:30 p.m. African National Service

(Nursery care available for all Sunday services)



in^Office

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