



TRADITION is an important part of who we are in the Christian church. There are "traditions" that help us remember and tell the story of God's redeeming love for us. The manner in which we celebrate Holy Communion, for example. There are other "traditions" that have come into existence because "we have always done it that way!" These traditions are there more for our comfort and less to help us remember and share the gospel. As a we continue to be a vital congregation, relating to the people in our community, we need to ask ourselves whether our "traditions" help us communicate the life changing message, or if they are for our comfort.

I find myself asking this question as we continue developing into a new annual conference. There are some "traditions" of our three conferences we have let go in order to become the new Great Plains Annual Conference. There is an article in this newsletter about our first session of Annual Conference! Here at Saint Paul we are adding a new way individuals can financially support the ministry of our church. As you will see in the article on our new "Give Online" button and the "QR Code" we now have! Our Church Council voted to have two worship services during July and August. There is an article addressing our summer worship, please read it!

I bring these things to our attention so we can see that we treasure the "tradition" of communicating the Christian gospel. And we are a church that is willing to try something new and different in order to connect with individuals who are living in our community. Saint Paul U. M. C. is a "vital congregation" working to change lives, connect with the community, and transform the world!

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Keith W. Johnson, Lead Pastor



Important Dates in June

June 2,3, 4	Vacation Bible School
June 4	UMW General Meeting
June 11-14	Annual Conference in Lincoln
June 18	M&M Service
June 22-28	Youth Mission Trip
June 28	Dinner Group to Big Mama's

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Giving to Saint Paul United Methodist Church

Saint Paul United Methodist Church offers several different ways you can give to help support the programs and missions of the church. You may also pay tuition for the childcare and preschool programs in any of these ways.

Online giving using your computer. Click on the green button below this paragraph, and you will be connected to a page where you can use your debit card to make a gift. You can indicate the amount you would like to give and whether it is a one-time or a recurring gift or tuition payment.



Online giving using your smart phone. Use your smartphone’s QR code reader (a free app, such as RedLaser), scan the QR code below, and you will be connected to Saint Paul UMC’s mobile donation page where you can make a donation using your debit card.



Electronic Funds Transfer. A form is available in the church office to set up automatic withdrawals of funds from your bank checking or savings account. Please call the church office at (402) 556-2433 and ask for Connie Almgren, Saint Paul UMC’s financial secretary, for more information about this method of giving.

By mail. Checks may be sent to Saint Paul United Methodist Church at 5410 Corby Street, Omaha, NE.

In an offering plate. Make a donation using cash or a check at a worship service.

Pentecost

The Fifty Great Days of Easter will end with our celebration of Pentecost, **June 07-08**. Within that time frame the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, forty days after Easter, an integral statement of faith as contained in the Apostles' Creed. You may know the Christian festival of Pentecost as the time we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised when he said, "I will not leave you comfortless." Did you know that Pentecost is celebrated in the Jewish tradition as Shavu'ot or the Festival of Weeks? It is the second of the three major festivals with both historical and agricultural significance, the first being Passover and the last, Sukkot. As our celebration of Pentecost is tied to the calendar date of Easter, so is the festival of Shavu'ot tied to the calendar date of Passover. The Solid Brass Quartet will be offering special music at the 8:15 and 11:05 services. Joining the brass at 11:05 will be guest organist, David Schack, who will offer an extended organ prelude time beginning at 10:50. We will celebrate our receiving of the Holy Spirit by wearing red, the color of the United Methodist flame, at all services that weekend.



June M&M Service

Our final mid-month M & M service held Wednesday, **June 18** 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." This month we hear from speakers, Darlene and Fred Nash and musician, Mark May. 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!

Special Music at 9:35 on June 29

A special service of music provided by the band, Bad Country, will be offered as part of worship at 9:35 on Sunday, **June 29**. St. Paul's own Nick Goding is joined by musical comrades Robbie Garvin, Chuck Serfass, and Cameron Young for a down home, foot stomping good time. Truly a musical gift to all who hear them!

Super Summer Sundays

The second of our super summer Sunday's (Memorial, Independence, and Labor) will be **July 06**. The theme of this national holiday will be reflected in the 10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary. 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.

Special Worship Hours for July 13-August 24

Don't let it be said that we're afraid of change at St. Paul Church! During a round table discussion of the 9:35 music team the conversation revolved around experimenting with two services of worship and that the approaching summer months of July and August might be a good time to try. The proposal was tweaked and at the May meeting of the St. Paul Church Council the following was motioned and approved:

That, beginning with Sunday, July 13 and ending on Sunday, August 24, 2014, there be two morning services of worship at the hours of 8:30 and 10:00. During the month of July, the 8:30 hour will be in a 'contemporary' style with Fusion musicians providing leadership and the 10:00 hour will be in a more 'traditional' style with combined vocal choir leadership. During the month of August, the services will exchange, with traditional at 8:30 and contemporary at 10:00. This does not affect Saturday evening worship.

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 brief experiment beginning July 13, choose between the 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. service (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!

Special Offering for June

An important element in the receiving of Christ's holy meal is how we respond to the invitation. Through our monthly communal offering we respond to being the body of Christ in a truly tangible way. On **May 31/June 01** our second mile giving will help support the denominational special offering for the **Peace With Justice Ministries**. The sacramental observance on this weekend reminds us Christ's commandment to "love one another" is made all the more meaningful as we participate in ministries that actively promote peace with justice.

Preparation for A New Refugee Family

The Saint Paul Mercy & Justice Team continue to prepare for the receiving of a new refugee family, at this time scheduled for late July or early August. We are seeking the help of the congregation in securing furnishings and household items to make a livable first home in their new country. See the church office for a "Whole Nine Yards" info sheet and be ready to offer your help when you hear the call. June will be a busy month of preparation!



One Great Hour of Sharing, April 1st to 4th ~ \$1,846.32

Native American Ministries, May 3rd & 4th ~ \$561.98

Looking for People to Serve at Siena/Francis House

On the first Tuesday of each month, a group of Saint Paul members go to the Siena/Francis House to serve dinner to homeless men, women and children. Most months there is a team who has volunteered to serve. However, we don't have a team signed up for June. The Mercy & Justice Team is looking for people who can serve on Tuesday, June 3.

Please let the church office know if you can serve from 5:00 to 7:00 on December 3. If you would like to car-pool you can meet in Saint Paul UMC's north parking lot at 4:15 p.m. If you go to the Siena Francis House on your own, you will need to be there by 5:00. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Great Plains Annual Conference 2014

The Great Plains Annual Conference will hold their first meeting this summer in Lincoln, June 11th – June 14th. On January 1st, Nebraska and Kansas became part of the same annual conference under the direction of Bishop Scott Jones. We look forward to working together with our sisters and brothers from the former Kansas East and Kansas West Annual Conferences.

Dr. Keith Johnson, Rev. Jerry Brabec, Kathy Rice, El Siebert and Doug Olson will be attending as representatives of St. Paul. During annual conference, various issues that affect the life and function of churches are discussed and voted upon. These issues range from "normal" organizational, financial and personnel actions required to keep individual churches and the annual conference running to resolutions dealing with social concerns, such as immigration and firearm violence. This material is available for review on the Great Plains Annual Conference website: <http://www.greatplainsumc.org/preconferenceinfo>

Annual Conference also includes group worship for all in attendance and the ordination of our newest clergy members on Friday evening. Guests are welcome at any of the scheduled sessions to observe the proceedings, but only voting representatives are allowed on the conference floor.

Following the annual conference, Kathy, El, and Doug will share their experiences during Saturday and Sunday worship the weekend of June 14 and 15.

SUPER SUMMER SUNDAYS

3 Sundays with 1 Service

May 25
Memorial Day

★ **July 6**
Independence Day

August 31
Labor Day

10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Spend the holidays of summer
with heartwarming
worship, celebrating
★ God and country

Saturdays at 5 p.m. in Roth Chapel

Saint Paul
United Methodist Church

**Please Join Us
For
Vacation Bible
School!**



Monday, June 2- Wednesday, June 4
5:00 p.m. Dinner, 5:50-8:15 p.m. VBS
Preschool age 4 through 5th Grade

Please register online at:
2014.cokesburyvbs.com/stpaulumcomaha or pick up a
registration form in the church office.

We are getting ready for a fun year in the Workshop of Wonders! There are special guests stopping by for a visit on Wednesday night, so you won't want to miss in the fun!

If you would like to volunteer, please email Dana at dgirl1228@hotmail.com. Volunteer positions available for a teacher, dinner and snack helpers, and youth helpers!

For our Mission this year, we will be collecting items for the refugee family Saint Paul will be sponsoring this Summer. Lists will be available at VBS! Thanks for your support!

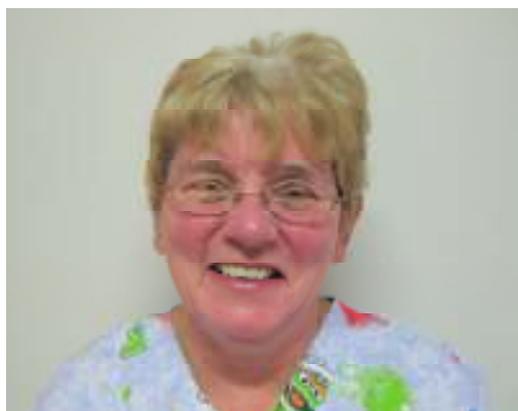
Youth Summer Mission Trip—June 22-28

This year is the year of Girl Power! The team is composed entirely of women!

We will be traveling to Booneville, Arkansas. Booneville is a small town in Northwest Arkansas. Each day will start with Personal Devotions, 6 hours of Mission work, some Free Time, Evening Services and Group Devotions. This is a Mission, not only of service to others, but to grow in our faith. Kristin will maintain a blog of the trip (assuming there is internet or cell phone reception) and will be including other members of the team to share their experiences on the blog. Follow us at: StPaulOmahaYouth.blogspot.com

World Religions Class

The World Religions class is currently meeting in room 203 on Tuesdays at 10:00 through July 1st. We will be exploring various faith traditions including Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism, and how their beliefs are similar to our own. We still have plenty of room, and you are welcome to attend any session, but we'd love to see you every week. If you are unable to attend in person, consider participating in the discussion online. Doug Olson (dolson@stpaulomaha) can give you more information.



Barb Parker Leaving

The Director of Saint Paul Childcare, Barbara Parker, has submitted her resignation and will be leaving her position. She and her family have the opportunity to move back to Kansas City, which is their home.

Barb's leadership has changed Saint Paul Childcare in a positive manner, and we thank her for her six years of service.

We are in the process of conducting interviews for Barb's replacement.

Men's Health Tune-Up

Gentlemen—Start your Engines!

Remember, routine maintenance is:

1. Exercise
2. Diet
3. Mental Health
4. Medication Management

Your equipment needs a check-up at least once a year! (4% of MEN have yearly checkups, 34% of WOMEN get check-ups yearly).

What are your potholes? Watch for upcoming events.

Health Ministry Team

Preschool Graduation

Graduation Day was Friday, May 23, for 19 students in Saint Paul United Methodist Church Preschool (pictured below in their caps and gowns). After the students presented a program for their parents and other members of their families, there was a reception in their honor.



At the graduation Preschool Director Judy Tesar announced her retirement. We want to thank her for her 40 years of service and the many children's lives she has touched.

UMW NEWS

Featuring the activities of the United Methodist Women of Saint Paul UMC. JUNE 2014

<p>EXECUTIVE BOARD *****</p> <p>President: Kathy Rice Vice President Linda Mead Secretary Jackie Pospisil Ass't. Secretary Jan Walker Treasurer Pat Leslie</p> <p>Advisor Judy Stransky</p>	<p>*****</p> <p>UMW GENERAL MEETING JUNE 4..... COFFEE AT 9:30, PROGRAM AT 10:00</p> <p>Our program will feature</p> <p>MARY PARKER OF THE EASTERN NEBRASKA OFFICE OF AGING</p> <p>LEARN WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO US</p>
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<p>SERVING:</p> <p>JUNE NAOMI & REBECCA</p> <p>SEPTEMBER RUTH</p>	<p>WE WILL HOST BAKELESS BAKESALES DURING THE SUMMER.</p> <p>WE INVITE YOUR DONATIONS OF MONEY INSTEAD OF BAKE GOODS.</p>
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<p>Reminder: Continue your summer reading with UMW books on the Parlor Book Shelves</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>REMEMBER...</p> <p>NO UMW MEETINGS IN</p> <p>JULY OR AUGUST</p> </div>
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PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE THE ENTIRE LABELS FOR CAMPBELL SOUP PRODUCTS.

Recent Hospitalizations

Keith Johnson, Lew Corbaley, Joanna Lonnecker, Margaret Sutton, Clay Kinman

Congratulations

To Spencer Robinson on receiving the Schoenhair Scholarship awarded by Saint Paul UMC.

To Chandler Bowden, Joslyn Jensen, Mani Rai and Subam Rai on their graduation from Omaha Central High School.

To Pierce Fulmer on his graduation from Westside High School.

To Dustin Acker and Spencer Robinson on their graduation from Omaha North High School.

To Paige Skidmore on her graduation from Millard South High School.

To Joshua Smith on his graduation from Omaha South High School.

To Greg Meyer on his graduation from Creighton University.

Christian Sympathy

To Jayne Meisinger and family in the death of her father, Lowell.

To Jim and Debra Bruhn in the death of Jim's mother, Margaret.

To the family of Rich Lange in his death.

Memorials

For Andrew Nielsen—Maxine Therkelsen

For Richard & Rose McDonald—Sandra Evenson

For Mary Buono—Judy Buono

For Shirley Drake—Jim Drake & family

For Thomas Nun—Rozanne Christensen, Gladys Lantz, Susan & Don Albury

News from Saint Paul Sunday School—Kids vs. Parents

A Bible Trivia contest took place in Shirley Edwards' Sunday School class on Sunday, May 4. This annual contest pits the kids against their parents to test knowledge of Bible Trivia. The pressure is on because Shirley says she will continue teaching only if the kids win. It was a close game, but the kids pulled out ahead with their knowledge of the Books of the Bible in order—39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The final score was Kids 716, Parents 501. Good job, kids!



Bridge Groups Are Recruiting New Members

The marathon bridge group is seeking new members for 2014-15. The objective is to meet St. Paul members you don't know or to get to know St. Paul members better, to have fun, and to raise money for missions (\$10 per person per year). Marathon means you will play about 10 times between September and June with a different team of two each time. Half the time your team will be the host, the other half you will play in someone else's home. We aim to play once a month--the date is at the convenience of the host and guest teams. All levels of skill are welcome. If you are interested call Annette Conser at 402-493-4810 or e-mail to annetteconser@cox.net. By June 15 please.

Book Club

"Pecan Man" by Cassie Dandridge Selleck is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their June meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, June 14, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599. Please feel free to come even if you have not read the book.



The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, June 28, at Big Mama's. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Big Mama's, 3223 N. 45th Street (Turning Point Campus, Bldg A), at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



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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