



In a few weeks this square will be filled with a "QR" code for Saint Paul UMC. This code will unlock ANOTHER way any one can choose to use his/her smart cell phone when making a contribution to the ministries here at Saint Paul UMC. May 25th we will unveil another way to support the general budget, a special offering, contribute to an emergency fund, pay a child's tuition for preschool or childcare, or contribute to other ministries listed!



Does this mean we no longer accept checks or cash? No, but it widens the choices we will have! When you choose to use your smart cell phone and this "QR" code you will be able to use your DEBIT card, not a credit card. The "QR" code will be on display in various places in the church building, in the newsletter and weekly bulletins. More information will be coming your way as we come closer to May 25th!

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

Important Dates in May

May 2	Choir to Temple Israel
May 3 & 4	UMW Mini Mart
May 7	UMW General Meeting
May 18 & 25	Used Book Sale
May 21	M&M Service
May 25	One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
May 31	Dinner Group to Wheatfields



Saint Paul Church

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Director of Children's Ministries

Kristin Malone
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Kathy Rice
Director of Stephen Ministry

Doug Olson
Adult Ministry Coordinator

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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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Please Join Us for VBS

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/stpaulomaha

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 the fun!

If you would like to volunteer, please email Dana at dgirl1228@hotmail.com. Volunteer positions available for teachers, assistant teachers, recreation helpers, science lab, dinner and snack helpers, youth helpers, and VBS prep!

Adult Classes Planned

We will have a class on World Religions beginning Tuesday May 6th at 10 am in the Library. It will run for eight weeks, ending on June 24th. We will be discussing some well known major faiths, including Judaism and Christianity, as well as some indigenous religions, and the similarities we all share. Knowing the beliefs and practices of other faiths helps us better understand our neighbors, as well as ourselves. If you can't be with us in person, please consider participating online.

Looking ahead, we will be presenting The Wesleyan Way, an eight week course on discipleship, authored by our own Bishop Scott Jones. This course covers various facets of Wesleyan theology and practice, including the concept of covenant discipleship. This is currently planned to be held in the fall, after the Labor Day holiday, day and time to be determined based on the availability of those interested. You may contact Doug Olson at the church (dolson@stpaulomaha.org) for more information on both of these classes.

Doug Olson
Adult Ministry Coordinator

M&M Service

Our mid-month M & M service, to be held Wednesday, **May 21** at 7:00 p.m., continues with the theme of the laity reminding us of “how Saint Paul has helped me on my spiritual journey.” This month we hear from speaker, Betty White and musician, Shawn Ammon, both worshippers at our 11:05 service. 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!

Pentecost

The Fifty Great Days of Easter will end with our celebration of Pentecost in June. 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. We will celebrate our receiving of the Holy Spirit by wearing red, the color of the UM flame.

One Worship Service on Sunday, May 25

The first of our summer Sunday’s (Memorial, Independence, and Labor) will be **May 25**. According to the official US Memorial Day website, “Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation’s service.” 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.

Holy Week in Pictures



Palm Sunday



Seder Meal



Maundy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter Fusion Service

Native American Ministries Special Offering

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 03/04** our second mile giving will help support the denominational special offering for the **Native American Ministries**. The sacramental observance on this weekend reminds us of the church's affirmation that we continue to share the responsibility for learning about and reaching out to Native Americans in their communities and by encouraging Native Americans to consider becoming pastors and nurturing them in their journey. This offering opportunity reminds United Methodists of the contributions made by Native Americans to our society and benefits Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States.

Rai Family Update

It's official! St. Paul's newly organized Mercy & Justice Team is in preparation to adopt the congregation's fourth refugee family. It hardly seems possible that the Rai Family arrived mid-October of 2010. Since that time Raju, Dhan Maya, Mani Raj, Subam and Monika have not only come into our hearts as friends, but in July of 2012 came into our midst as members of the church with Dhan Maya's father, Narbu Tamang, joining as well. Raju now holds full time employment at Quality Pork, Dhan Maya is a care giver to her father, Mani Raj and Subam are preparing to graduate from Central High School with plans to attend Iowa Western Community College in the fall, and Monika is finishing the third grade at Harrison School. The greatest news is that the Rai's have been selected to receive a Habitat for Humanity dwelling in the near future. They continue their work toward the family 'sweat equity' Habitat requires of every participant. This is the power of God's children working together for mercy and justice. Now the Team asks for your prayers and your help to work another miracle in the lives of those we are yet to know.

What is Needed for a New Refugee Family?

As part of her presentation to the March meeting of the Church Council, Lacey Studnicka of Lutheran Family Services informed the gathering that the summer months of June, July and August are the busiest resettlement times for the metro area. To that end your Mercy & Justice Team has begun work in the hopes of readying themselves for a late July arrival. Members of the Antioch, Christian Adventure, Corinthians adult Sunday School classes and Chancel and Folk Gospel Choirs have taken on the challenge of household items (cleaning, kitchen, and toiletries.) The task of the congregation at large will be furnishings (see box inset) and volunteers needed to assist the family once they arrive. Your help will be a vital link in the success of this Christian outreach to our neighbors. Watch for further information, arrange your summer schedule for the possibilities, and then be ready to reach out and share in this marvelous experience of God's love.

Furniture

Items required for a refugee family's first home in the United States

Dining table/chairs
 Beds & bedding
 Pillows
 Lamps
 Couch
 Dressers
 Recliners
 Coffee & side tables



**One Great Hour of
 Sharing, 04/01-
 04/14 ~ \$1,796.32**

**Refugee Storage Tub
 Project, as of
 04/24/14 ~ \$574.00**

Siena/Francis House

The Mercy & Justice Team will be serving dinner at the Siena/Francis House on Tuesday, May 6, and you are invited to join them. Please let the church office know if you can serve from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to carpool, you can meet the group in Saint Paul UMC's north parking lot at 4:15. If you go to the Siena/Francis House on your own, you will need to be there by 5:00.

Fill the UMCOR Truck at 2014 Annual Conference Session

During the 2014 Great Plains Annual Conference Session at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, June 11-14, a semi-trailer will be on-site to receive items for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

What to Bring

Any of the seven UMCOR Kits. Full instructions for the contents and assembly of kits may be found at www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies. The Missions Team is suggesting that Saint Paul members contribute sewing kits again this year. Flyers are available in the church office that give the complete list of items needed and instructions on assembling the kits.

If you would like to help but don't want to purchase an entire kit, there are several individual items UMCOR especially needs:

Hand bath towel (15" x 25" to 17"x 27")
(No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels)

Baby sweater or jacket (open from the front; may be hand knitted, crocheted or sewn; hooded sweatshirts are acceptable)

Fabric scissors (in original packaging)

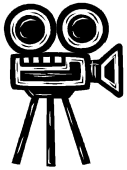
Cloth baby diapers (pre-folded cloth or plain cloth diapers only)

Hand sewing needles (in original SEALED packaging)

Sewn school bags (pattern is available on the web-site)

Monetary donations are also welcome! Please bring your donations to the church office by Sunday, June 8.

Youth Moment



Sunday, April 27th Movie –
God's not Dead
Majestic Theater, 144th & Maple
Friends welcome



Friday, May 3rd Box City
First United Methodist Church
\$5 and 5 cans, bring your own
Box



Sunday, May 11th
Mother's Day
**no Sunday School, no Youth Group
Spend time with your Mom!



Sunday, May 18th – Picnic
Standing Bear Dam Site
Friends Welcome



Memorial Weekend –
Sunday, May 26th
No Sunday School, no Youth Group



DEVOS
Every Wednesday at 7pm
Youth talk about issues that
interest them

Please contact Kristin Malone at 402-598-5188 or kmalone@stpaulomaha.org if you have any Youth questions or suggestions.



ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE MAY 18 AND 25

It's that time again.

Time to stock up on inexpensive books (50 cents & \$1)
for your summer reading.

Sale will be open on Saturday, May 17, following the
Saturday night service.

All proceeds go toward St. Paul's Mission Pledge.

inConcert

Open piano recitals by the students of Omaha Music Teacher's Association members will be in the Sanctuary during the month. You are welcome to attend any or all of the events scheduled for Saturday, May 10, at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, May 11, at 3:00 p.m. or Sunday, May 18, at 2:00 p.m. Beautiful music is guaranteed!

May is National Mental Health Month

Physical or mental wellness may be defined as an active process of becoming aware of and making choices towards a more successful existence.

The 2014 May Mental Health Month theme is "Mind Your Health." Materials are geared towards building public recognition about the importance of mental health to overall health and wellness; informing people of the ways that the mind and body interact with each other; and providing tips and tools for taking positive actions to protect mental health and promote whole health.

Did you know?

- Connecting with others can help you to enjoy the times when you are alone.
- Staying positive can improve your mood and your health.
- If you quit smoking now, in 20 minutes your heart rate drops, and in 12 hours the carbon monoxide (a gas that can be toxic) in your blood drops to normal.
- Exercising in "spurts" can be just as effective as continuous exercise.
- Helping others may help you experience less depression.

Look for other tips and tools on the Saint Paul UMC website, www.stpaulomaha.org, or on the Health Ministries Bulletin Board in the hallway leading to the parlor.

Mental health is influenced by having a social support, such as family or church, healthy eating, coping with stress, including rest, relaxation and exercise in your daily activities. If you have a healthy body, it promotes healthy mental health also. It is important to recognize when to seek help also, when daily stress or burdens are heavy. There are community resources available, often without a cost. Churches or hospitals or clinics may supply specifics.

Free Health Information and Screenings

Shirley Edwards, our Parish Nurse, has access to information about free workshops and classes on various health topics. She posts notices on the Health Ministries bulletin board, which is in the hallway that leads to the parlor. If you are looking for information on a specific subject, you can email Shirley at larueedwards@aol.com or you can call her at 402-672-4715.

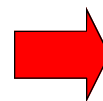
Shirley also has free colon cancer screening kits. Contact her if you are interested in getting one of the kits.

Also, don't forget the free blood pressure screenings provided by the Health Ministry team members on the first Sunday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the membership office.

UMW Mini Mart

Just in time for Mother's Day, the United Methodist Women will be sponsoring a Mini Mart. Stop by their tables in the Gathering Areas after the worship services on Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4.

Next
**Church
Council
Meeting**



**Monday,
May 19,
at 7:00 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall
Everyone is invited!**

What is the Stephen Caregivers Program About?

In the time since I completed the training as a Stephen Leader many folks have asked just what that means. I will try to explain it simply. Stephen Leaders are the persons, lay or clergy, who have been trained to implement and supervise the Stephen Ministry program in a local church. The training is provided by Stephen Ministries of St. Louis. The training is one week long and located in various places across the country. The one I attended was in Pittsburg, PA in August with about 400 others from the USA and Canada.

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian training organization based in St. Louis. Since 1975 Stephen Ministries has provided high-quality, Christ-centered training and resources to more than 11,000 congregations from more than 150 denominations.

In addition to the Stephen Series, Stephen Ministries offers resources in leadership, small group ministry, spiritual gifts discovery, grief ministry, caring evangelism, spiritual growth, and more.

Stephen Caregivers, or ministers, are lay persons trained to provide high-quality care to persons in need. A caregiver is assigned to one care receiver for as long as care is needed. A caregiver may be assigned to one grieving the loss of a loved one, to terminally ill people and their families, to victims of disasters, to those in job crisis, to people who are separated or divorced, and to countless other situations when people are experiencing a crisis or difficult time and could benefit from ongoing, one-to-one Christian care.

We currently have four persons who are going through the training program. It is anticipated that they will complete their training at the end of October. We are spacing it out a bit rather than doing it 20 weeks in a row. When they are done with the training they will be commissioned as Stephen Caregivers in our congregation. Please keep them in your prayers.

If you know of someone who is in need or may benefit from a relationship with a Stephen Caregiver, please contact Kathy Rice or Keith Johnson. All referrals are kept confidential.

Kathy Rice
krice@stpaulomaha.org

Thank You's

It is with much appreciation that we tell you we finally received our check from the HyVee grocery receipts. This year our total received was \$282.48, which is a dramatic increase from previous years. Our sincere thanks go to the members of Saint Paul, UMW ladies, our Preschool families and friends, and also to the ENOA group that meets here at the church. I happened to mention to the ENOA seniors that we were saving these receipts, and they provided us with a substantial amount.

Many thanks also go to Susie Rensch (one of our preschool mothers), who tabulated all of these numbers. Again, thank you so much for all of your help. Next year's drive will probably begin sometime in early September. Please keep us in mind.

Judy Tesar, Preschool Director

To the members of Saint Paul United Methodist Church,

On behalf of Nebraska Federation of Music Clubs, I wish to thank Saint Paul United Methodist Church for allowing the 2014 Omaha Junior Festival to be held in your beautiful facility on March 29. We had 99 students participating in 158 music events including hymn playing, guitar solo, piano solo, piano duet, piano concerto, vocal musical theater and theory. Each student received a rating and critique on their performance. It was a privilege for the students to perform on such wonderful grand pianos in such a lovely setting.

Rev. Jerry Brabec was most accommodating. Everything was perfectly prepared when we arrived! Kudos to Marta Brabec and the custodial staff for providing such a clean working facility.

We sincerely hope that we will have the opportunity to use your facility again next year.

Phyllis Dunne, Chairman
Nebraska Federation of Music Clubs

UMW NEWS

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

<p>EXECUTIVE BOARD ***** President: Kathy Rice Vice President Linda Mead Secretary Jackie Pospisil Ass't. Secretary Jan Walker Treasurer Pat Leslie Advisor Judy Stransky *****</p>	<p>***** UMW GENERAL MEETING MAY 7..... COFFEE AT 9:30, PROGRAM AT 10:00 Our program will feature EL SIEBERT</p> <hr/> <p>MAKE IT HAPPEN: We wish traveling mercies for Pat Leslie, Mary Campbell, Charlene Wilcox and Maddy Malone who are representing us at the United Methodist Women Assembly in Louisville, KY. The Assembly begins on Friday, April 25 and goes through Sunday, April 27th. Hilary Rodham Clinton will deliver the keynote address on Saturday morning, April 26th.</p>
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<p>A big THANK YOU to all who worked so hard on our Spring luncheon....especially The United Methodist Men</p>	<p>SERVING: MAY ESTHER JUNE NAOMI & REBECCA</p>
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<p>Next Mini-mart May 3-4</p> 	<p><u>PRAY FOR</u> MARKUS WOLFMEIER Mission Intern Birthday is May 10.</p>
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PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE THE ENTIRE LABELS FOR CAMPBELL SOUP PRODUCTS.

Recent Hospitalizations

Deanna Anderson, Brandon Taylor

Christian Sympathy

To Kathy Rice in the death of her aunt.

To Walter & Dorothy Sharp in the death of his brother-in-law.

To Barb Nun and family in the death of her son.

To Cheryl Hurley and the family of Donna Fishback in Donna's death.

To Kristin & Maddy Malone in the death of their cousin.

To Jason Smith in the death of his aunt.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, letters and prayers while I was hospitalized and while I'm home. I continue to get well, and I hope to be back soon.

Becky Rose

Thank you for all the prayers, calls and cards during my recent absence. Just can't thank you enough! Saint Paul people are the greatest.

Sue Sherman

You are Invited

We are celebrating the 100th birthday of Marjorie Bonneau, and the Saint Paul family is invited. The event, hosted by her five children, will be an open house on Sunday, May 25, from 2-4:00 p.m. (short program at 3:00 p.m.) at the Craig Community Center (gym) in Craig, NE. (There are directions to Craig in the church office.) The Community Center is at the top of the hill, across the street from the water tower.

No gifts, please. Your presence is the only gift

Book Club

"Life After Life" by Kate Atkinson is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their May meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, May 10, 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.

Memorials

For Kevin Gatzemeyer—Jean Herman-Fehr & Arva Herman, Mary Ann & Ray Kirchner, Jim & Janet McDole, Gladys Lantz, Nick & Mary Stolzer

For Tom Nun—Annette Farquhar, Jackie Pospisil, Corinthian Class, Jo Sahl, Darlene & Fred Nash, Barb Nun, Walt Sharp, Marilyn Claborn

For Marke Bermel—James & Debra Bruhn

For Gayle Clayton—Barb Nun

For Richard & Rose McDonald—Sandra Evenson

For Mike Leed—Judy Leed

For Syl, Nick & Nate—K. R. Schrader

For Stan Parker—Norma Parker

Congratulations

To John & Brittany Vinchattle in the birth of their son, Brooks Dean.

To Brett & Maggie Brockmann on the March 29th baptism of their daughter, Charlie Lane.



The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, May 31, at Wheatfields. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Wheatfields, 1224 South 103

Street, at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



inWorship

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)

inOffice

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Saint Paul inSpiration