

MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

Inspiration

May 2021

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

It's May, and my mind is wandering towards rhubarb. Both of my grandmothers were culinary artists with rhubarb, sometimes using less sugar and more meringue than suited my childhood palate. Our spring and early summers included recipes from both sides of the family as well as our church and local 4-H cookbook. Over the years, I have relied on the topic of rhubarb as a conversation starter at many a summer potluck; I believe to encounter rhubarb is to form an opinion not just of the flavor but the best form in which to consume, share, and tend to it.

A few years ago I added rhubarb to my front yard garden because there were some spots that needed leafy green texture. Last spring when we were sorting out those first months of a global pandemic, I found myself in the front yard digging up rhubarb, iris and lilies to divide and replant. It seemed the entire neighborhood was out for a walk those days, and many people I had never before met would pause to say hello and ask about the garden. I quickly realized I would have less digging to do if I offered the multiplying plants to my new friends. As grocery bag after grocery bag of plants walked away with neighbors I found myself thinking about how we find opportunities to share and care in unexpected places. My neighbors thought they were out for a walk and I thought I was tending a garden and instead we ended up learning more about each other and spreading plant love.

We at Saint Paul are ready for a season of learning more about our neighbors and sharing God's love, in ways that are appropriate for a community where, as of this writing, levels of Covid19 transmission are still considered high. Stay tuned for information about a summer of neighborhood adventure, including a return to Benson First Fridays and new partnerships in and around Benson. We look forward to seeing you for in-person worship as you feel comfortable and online any time as we continue both PianoSide and the livestream: to be clear, all forms of worship "count" no matter the season. Rhubarb might not be for everyone, but it is a reminder - God's love grows and grows, especially when shared!!! May your spring continue to be one of growth and sharing here at Saint Paul Benson.

Rev Stephanie

Saint Paul Benson

5410 Corby St.
Omaha, NE 68104

402-556-2433
FAX 402-939-0055

www.stpaulbenson.org

E-mail:
saintpaul@stpaulomaha.org

Staff

Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede
Lead Pastor

Rev. Marta Wheeler
Associate Pastor

Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

Kristin Camp
Front Office

Noni Cambridge
Bookkeeper

Chris Jones
Building Engineer

Jayne Meisinger
Membership Secretary

Saint Paul
Child Development Center

402-556-3885
Katy Smith, *Director*

Community Counseling

402-354-6891 x23
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.

Editor: Sue Bacon

To contact the editor:

Phone 402-556-2433

Email.....
sbacon@stpaulomaha.org

Address: ... 5410 Corby Street
Omaha, NE 68104

May Church Calendar

Special Communal Offering for Native American Ministries

Sundays

8:00 a.m. PianoSide Worship Available on YouTube
10:00 a.m. LiveStream Worship on YouTube & in Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Dyno Kids on Zoom
12:15 p.m. Kirundi/Kiswahili Worship Livestream and in person

Sundays, May 2 & 16

3:00 p.m. Youth

Mondays through Fridays

7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Child Development Center open
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Church Office Open (sometimes closes at 3:00 pm, please call ahead)

Mondays

10:00 a.m. Clergy Meeting

Tuesdays

9:00 a.m. Lectio Divina Prayer Group
1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Library

Tuesday, May 4

4:15 p.m. Serving Dinner at Siena/Francis House;
call the church office if you are interested in serving

Tuesday, May 11

7:00 p.m. Mercy & Justice

Tuesday, May 18

11:00 a.m. Health Ministry

Wednesdays

11:00 a.m. Staff Check-in

Wednesday, May 5

12:00 noon CDC Flower Pickup Begins

Thursdays

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturdays

5:00 p.m. Worship Service in Chapel

Saturday, May 8

8:30 a.m. Book Club Meeting on Zoom

Senior Sunday—May 15-16th

Please send the names of graduating seniors
by May 3rd to the church office so that
we can include and honor them!

This is a repeated article, first run in 2020 and three months into the COVID 19 pandemic. It is still valid for much of May 2021, but has been updated with the current information: "The weeks since Governor Ricketts put social distancing requirements for Nebraska into motion have been filled with challenges, to be sure. Your clergy staff hopes that the creative solutions for worship we are attempting have helped to satisfy your spiritual needs, as well as the safety issues with which we are now faced. The development of weekly "PianoSide Chats" has been a very rewarding process (*and will continue into the future for those needing/ enjoying an on-line way to worship*) and, although your clergy have been the primary faces on the screen, we'd be totally lost without the technical expertise of member, Hank Robinson. A simple "thank you" seems so meager, but it remains a heartfelt offering, nonetheless. (*Thanks also to our departed comrade, Warren Johnson and soon, Kristin Camp!*) Through the weeks of May (Memorial Day) you will be moved by gifts for worship from many lay members whose faces you may find familiar. It is hoped that there may be some sort of "in person" worship by May 31, when we could possibly gather to celebrate the festival of Pentecost. As to what that/those service(s) may look like we are unable to share with you at this time. (*We now gather in person each Saturday evening at 5:00 in Roth Chapel and again on Sunday morning at 10:00 in the Sanctuary. In person celebrations of the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered May 01/02. Special services to mark both Pentecost on May 22/23 Memorial Day on May 29/30 will grace our worship.*) Please be assured that every effort is being made to restore an "in person" weekly worship option that exceeds the mandatory safety requirements being outlined now and in the weeks to come. For those of the congregation that feel "tech savvy" we ask that you stay abreast of the information coming to you via our website, e-blast, and Facebook/Twitter/Instagram presence and share it as you are able. For those of us who find a hands-on paper copy to be our only link, remember that by the time you receive this the information will, most likely, be out of date! In all of this never hesitate to reach out to the office at 402-556-2433, still human staffed Monday through Friday! If you leave a voice mail it will be returned and in the meantime...stay safe and stay with God!" *What a difference a year makes!*

Clergy Corner:

(On staff at Saint Paul Church since 1990, Rev. Brabec has been appointed to serve in an ordained clergy capacity since 2000.)

During the first days of May the Saint Paul staff will bid adieu to Sue Bacon who has served as the Communications Coordinator since the late summer of 2009. Sue has been a non-anxious presence since the moment she walked onto the office scene, due, no doubt, to the days she spent honing her craft with the likes of Willy Theisen and Herman Cane at the Godfather's Corporate Office. Her professional demeanor and stellar work ethic have been models for all of us who have had the pleasure of working together. Sue's trademark vocational style has been one of quiet, methodical perseverance, even during these days of the pandemic. Her talents also include, but are not limited to, answering the phone with a smile, any question with a fact-based response, any concern with a listening ear, and any care with an open heart. She has offered her knowledgeable welcome to three lead pastors and three of their associates. She has seen us through the implementation of two: websites, telephone systems, photo copiers, and computer server updates. But it is with this retirement that she will be able to concentrate on her one love, husband Kent and family. Together they will spend some time continuing to downsize around their Blair home, while prepping the pool for yet another season. And she's busy rejuvenating the Prayer Shawl ministry (she would invite you to join the circle on Tuesdays at 1:30! In the library) as well as offering to help around the office on occasion. Thank you, Sue, for all you have done and will continue to do for Saint Paul Church. On behalf of the entire staff we wish you well, always!

Rev. Jerry

P.S. You are invited to send a card of appreciation to Sue at 10997 Arrowhead Drive, Blair, 68008.

Staffing Changes

Please join us in thanking Sue Bacon for her years of service in the church office!! We want to thank Steve Dohe for his Tuesday morning service, as he transitions to back-up front desk status. We welcome Kristin Camp, who will be our new daily front office administrator with job duties including database management, communications, video editing, graphic design, social media, data entry and project management.

Mission Update: Mercy And Justice at Work

Although it has been several years since members and friends of Saint Paul Church have undertaken the mission of sponsoring a refugee family, the ties that bind us when we do are indeed strong ones. This article is a brief touch stone on the Rai Families, who happen to share the same last name, but are not related. Our relationship with these two families continue through friendship and the Christian love, as evidenced by the report of Dee Maycock and Linda Mead:

"As many may recall, the **Raju Rai** Family, including Dhan's father, Narbu Tamang, had joined St. Paul, being sponsored in 2010. In 2015 the family became active founders of the Abhisek Nepali Church congregation which met in our Fellowship Hall until Covid-19 interfered. It had been "born" in the living room of their Habitat home, and Mani, Subam and Monika continue to be part of the worship leadership. The congregation is currently meeting at 5151 N 33rd Street. Covid-19 hit all of the family except Subam and his wife Sumika, who had moved to their own home. It took the life of Narbu on May 15, 2020 and in a way also tiny beautiful Hosanna, daughter of Mani and Sapana, who arrived at four pounds two ounces on September 22, 2020. As Mani said on October 20, 2020, "she went to also live in God's house." Raju continues to be employed at QPI company, Mani and Subam are at Fiserv working in different departments. Monika is a sophomore at North High. Subam was the first to become a citizen on February 02, 2017 so he could sponsor his wife. Dhan and Raju became citizens on August 22, and September 17, 2019. Monika is a citizen as their daughter, but an official ceremony has not yet taken place. Mani planned to become a citizen with Sapana when she becomes eligible, so we look forward to that as well. We are fortunate to have them all still a part of the St. Paul family." *Written with love by Grandma Dee Maycock.*

"Easter is a time of renewal, one of new beginnings. This would characterize a lovely visit I had this Easter, being invited to dinner at the **Kuber Rai** Family home that afternoon. You might remember them as a family Saint Paul and our Mercy and Justice team mentored when they first came to Omaha in 2014. Peg Reed and I were free and could help them with health visits, rides, and other things during the day. It was a wonderful experience; we learned a lot about their culture and found out how very special they are. We even had an indoor picnic one rainy day with some clergy and M & J team members. The pandemic is winding down, shots are taken...and the renewal has begun! They live in a lovely home with a number of Nepalese in the area. Kuber is just retiring from Tyson's while Tika is still working there. Sunita, the oldest daughter has married, while Samjana has graduated from Benson High School. Both work for a company near their home. The youngest, Apshana, is a very talented artist and will be in tenth grade at Burke this fall. She has weathered nicely with both in-person and remote learning. It has been so great to catch up with them. We've scheduled a picnic soon; hopefully it won't be raining then." *Written with love by Aunt Linda Mead.*

Native American Ministries

The May Communal Offering helps develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the Annual Conferences. Funds are sent to rural, urban, and reservation ministries and communities. There are more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination and this special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized. Scholarships are provided for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology. Thank you for giving generously to Native American ministries!

Welcome

To five new members who were baptized on April 4:

Pascasie Congera
Josiane Irankunda
Elias Baranyikwa
Shalom Kasusa
Germene Niyonsaba

Christian Sympathy

To Nancy Mattly in the death of her husband, Robert. To Rob & Gina Mattly in the death of Rob's father.

To Jeremy Shirk and family in the death of his father.

To El Siebert in the death of his sister.

Honorariums

For Jan Biga—Joan Clements

For Nick & Mary Stolzer—Deb Berriman

Memorials

For Stan & Virginia Richardson—Deb Berriman

For All of Her Family Members —Judy Buono

For Warren Johnson—Marc & Karen May, Margaret Crane

For Douglas Taylor—Marc & Karen May

For Bob Mattly—Dewey & Judy Mattly, Nancy Mattly, Gladys Lantz, Nancy Bader & Lnetta Thurman, Linda Foland, Vicki Jackson, Susan Lamphiear, Lorena Mattly, Marge & Wendi Williams, LeRoy & Kay Peterson, Randy & Susie Miller, William & Linda Rutter, Jerry Brabec

E-Newsletter

We changed e-news formats this winter, and now use an newsletter service that is recognized by internet carriers so there is less likelihood our emails will be caught in spam filters. We are rebuilding our email list; if you would like to subscribe send an email to the church office and we will send you the information to confirm your subscription to our newsletter. Thank you!

Learning, Serving, Praying, Playing

Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser:

If you could use a helping hand in preparing and planting gardens this May, please contact Pastor Marta soon. We will do our part to help beautify our city!

The youth group plans to meet on Sundays, May 2nd and 16th at 3 pm and also as needed to do garden work.

The youth trip is being planned for June 21-25th.

Rev. Marta Wheeler



May 2-23rd-Dyno Kids Children's Ministries

Pastor Marta and Linda Mead plan to meet on zoom at 11 am for online Sunday School as we celebrate growing together in faith! New participants are always welcome. Please check out the Dyno Kids page on the Saint Paul Benson FaceBook page.

VBS is planned for July 14, 15, 18th. We will be hosting a Compassion Camp with great songs, crafts, science, and stories.

SAINT PAUL *Benson*

5410 CORBY STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68104

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

SAINT PAUL *Benson*

PROUD TO BE A RECONCILING CONGREGATION



With God's love as our foundation,
we celebrate friendship with all of God's people,
affirming all sexual orientations and gender
identities.

Together, we will seek justice for all and do good
in our community, nation and around the world
in the name of Jesus Christ.