



The Flame

August 2023

Our Mission is to be a welcoming place where people meet Christ and grow in their relationship with God through our worship, service, and fellowship.

Camp Canterbury



Last month, several of our youth headed off to Camp Canterbury, with youth from across the diocese, for a week of fun, prayer, and praise, with a little worship thrown in. With all kinds of activities planned, to build and strengthen relationships, those who traveled from far and wide, found how much they really had in common with one another. Regardless of whether they came from urban or rural Nebraska, each found that the love of God, was something that bound them together in such a way, that the differences they knew were not something to divide them, but something to celebrate, not only enriching their experience, but giving them a chance

to see how working together, our differences can bring a feeling of unity. This year, Fr. Tom broke away from the office, and with Fr. John Schafer, had a chance to meet with campers and talk about mission and how their newfound sense of unity might offer others the same hope and joy they found. Our campers smiles speak volumes of the camp's success.



Fr. Tom's Tidbits



As we roll into August, one doesn't have to look at the calendar to see that, for many, the rest that summer offered is coming to an end, as our home and church lives begin to be filled with more activities and more responsibilities. Within the next two weeks, schools will begin their fall semester, and we will celebrate the start of our program year with our annual parish picnic. Later this month, we will enter a float in the community's Arrows to Aerospace Parade, hold one of the 10 mobile pantries we offer throughout the year, Sunday school and Journeys will hold their annual kick-off events, and our adult formation classes will return.

While the cycle of our parish life ebbs and flows throughout the year, one constant is our worship. Each week we come together to pray, praise, and encounter the love of God revealed to us in and through Jesus. Granted, the words we use occasionally change, and our praise can often be in our hearts more than our voice, when the hymns we sing are not so familiar, yet when we come forward to receive communion, all the chaos, all the distractions seem to disappear, if only in the moment, as our connection to and with our Lord is not longer something hoped for, but something real and tangible, the familiarity of stepping into a sacred space to be strengthened and washed offers us a peace which truly does surpass all understanding.

Sadly, we do not get to rest in that moment of peace very long. Before we know it, worship that brought us to such a pinnacle of being, begins to prepare us to go forth to share the peace we have experienced, not only in community, but beyond the four walls of our church as well. For some of us, sharing in community is easier that out there, in the world. Those in community, have just experienced what we did, there is a commonality that naturally binds us together. But how do we help someone, out there, to understand not only what we have experienced, but how that experience impacts our lives?

The easy answer is to simply tell them. But, as we all know, doing so is not so easy to do because it is hard to describe a feeling that itself is indescribable. We can try and use metaphors and images in our attempts to do so, but if one does not have the same frame of reference, no matter how good our images and metaphors might be, things do not click. So, what do we do? We say what we can, and we show them the rest by how we live our lives. When someone sees the joy our worship gives us, how afterwards we seem happier than before, and that it brings us together in a way that builds us up, and prepares us for what lies ahead, their curiosity will be peaked. Maybe not at first, but if what they witness is the same, time and again, the seed we planted in the beginning, will grow, and eventually create a desire to explore more fully what it is that creates such a peace and joy in our hearts.

This month, I encourage each of us to let people see that what gives us joy, is what brings us together; the opportunity to share in prayer, praise, and an amazing encounter with love, love we share each time we gather, love that then prepares us to go forth to share it with others.

Father Tom



Parish Life

Julie's Departure (6 Aug 23 last Sunday)

It is with deep sadness we announce the departure of Julie (our church organist) and her partner Diego. Julie has been a real blessing to our parish; and while we had hoped to have her stay with us longer, she has accepted a call to serve with the Navy's JAG. We wish Julie and Diego a blessed life and safe travels, and this reminder as well, should they ever find themselves back in the area (Offutt is a joint use base) they are always welcome to join us to celebrate God's love.



Parish Picnic

As the summer comes to a close, we will kick off our 2023-24 program year with our Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday (13 Aug). We will once again hold our picnic at Betz park using the pavilion next to the water pad. This year we will also employ three new tents to offer more

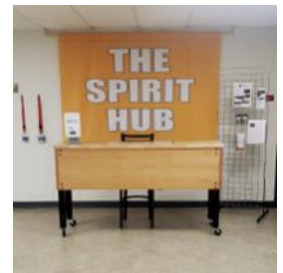


shade and enable us to spread out a little more. Our plan this year to again offer Chicken Fingers as the entree` and to invite everyone who attends to bring a side or dessert to share. Please grab your lawn chair and join us beginning at 11:30am in Betz Park. We will bring a few yard games, but would welcome some additional games to add to the festivities.



Thanks to our Spirit Hub Hosts

The first quarter of our shared Spirit Hub ministry is nearing an end, and we will once again be reaching out to Ministry Team Leaders to schedule our next quarter's hosting schedule. The office will be sending out an email this month to get names for the next quarter's hosting. We would love to hear from those who have served as hosts to learn what has been working, and what improvements are needed. Team Leaders are encouraged to visit with their teams over the month to collect any inputs that can help us serve our members and our guests better. We will share these thoughts during our September 9th Team Leader Meeting on Saturday (9 Sep) beginning at 10am.



Volunteers Needed – Arrows to Aerospace



Thanks to the hard work of Barb and Kristi Smith, we will be entering a float in this year's Arrows to Aerospace Parade on Saturday (19 Aug). We are looking for a few volunteers to help assemble the float's decorations on Friday evening (18 Aug) and even more to ride on the float during the parade. Please sign up at the Spirit Hub and let us know if you are able to join in this amazing community event.



Lay Eucharistic Visitor Ministry



Our Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) Ministry is once again up and running. Are you, or someone you know unable to join us for worship? Our team of volunteers would love to stop by, at a time that works with your schedule, to bring church (and communion) to you. Each week, a team of two volunteers will reach out by phone to those who have expressed an interest, to coordinate a time to bring you up-to-date news on what's happening at church, to listen to what's happening in your life, and to offer and share in prayer and communion with our sick and shut-in members. If you would like to be added to our home visit list, please contact the church office and let us know.

Lay Eucharistic Minister Training

On Sunday (20 Aug) beginning shortly after the 9:30 serve, Jennifer Wilson will offer a training session for members of our parish who have expressed an interest in this ministry. This is not a closed training session. All current members, and anyone else who might be interested in learning more about being a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), are invited to attend. Parish LEMs read the lessons and lead us in our prayers during worship and help serve the wine during communion. This ministry has deep roots in the life of our parish and Jennifer is excited about helping grow this ministry. LEMs serve on a rotational basis, with dates coordinated a quarter in advance. New members will be provided with a mentor to assist them in their training.



2024 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

The Diocese is once again offering another pilgrimage to the Holy Land (7-18 May 2024). During our pilgrimage we will visit the region of Galilee, as well as Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and other biblical sites in Judea. In September,



Fr. Tom and those who went on our last pilgrimage will host an informational presentation during coffee hour. The cost for next year's pilgrimage is expected to run about \$5,500 per person. This is an all-inclusive fee which includes all travel, lodging, meals, and fees (with the exception of travel insurance). Would you like to know more about this opportunity to walk where Jesus prayed? If so, please contact Fr. Tom.

Education for Ministry (EfM)– Registration is Open!

I love the metaphor EfM is using for the weekly seminar – a “waystation.” Like the Monarch butterflies, from time to time we need waystations to challenge, refresh, clarify and support us in our journey with God. Over a 4-year period, EfM participants gather to share stories and learn from one another as they deepen their understanding of the riches of the Christian tradition guided by the EfM curriculum selected by the University of South School of Theology.

EfM has been offered at our church for 35+ years! Cindy Pekarek and Ruth Richter are long-time co-mentors for our group, which meets via Zoom on Tuesdays, 6:15-8:15 p.m. We invite you to join us when we start back up after Labor Day (the 2023-24 term goes through May)! Please complete your on-line registration at efm.sewanee.edu in Group PekarekRichterCHS2023 by August 15th. We have access to scholarship funds if needed.



For more information see efm.sewanee.edu or contact Cindy at circlecnp@gmail.com, 402-670-0575 or Ruth Richter at richterfamilyne@gmail.com, 402-880-7580. Or talk with Father Tom.

Youth

Fun Plex

On what was described by the news as the hottest day of the year thus far, CHS enjoyed a refreshing day in the waters of FunPlex. Families enjoyed the shade of the green and orange tent, along with a gentle breeze that worked its way through the open sides, while our youth spend several hours going up the stairs to go down the slides, enjoying a cruise along the lazy river, and the ups and downs of the wave pool. Some did go-carting, bumper cars and other fun rides as well. Parents did not just hang out in the shade, they got out there too, enjoying the refreshing coolness of the water. All in all, a really great day.



J2A Staff Meeting

Last month, our Journeys Mentoring Team got together to put together our 2023-24 program year's calendar. We are excited to say that the activities our youth so very much enjoy, are back on the calendar for the upcoming year. We welcomed a new volunteers to our Mentoring Team, Barb Smith, and Amber Horejs and learned that Barb's daughter Michaela has offered to help sub as needed, especially on those events we need additional chaperones. A couple of new community service ideas were discussed and will be presented to the youth as Journeys begins.



Besides the usual mobile pantry work, we are looking at adding events such as: an ice cream social at the Veteran's home, volunteering on a Saturday with the Humane Society, and maybe the rake and run ministry our youth once offered to parish members and the singing of Christmas Carols at nearby Richmond Village in December. We hope our youth find one or more of these service projects an exciting opportunity to share the love of God with others.

Sunday School Open House

It's hard to believe, but the beginning of Sunday school is right around the corner. Our summer Christian Education Open House is planned for Sunday (20 Aug). During coffee hour, please check out what we will be offering this year for both youth and adults. Do you have some ideas of what might be offered? If so, please let our Christian Education Director (Cindy Pekarek) know so that we can begin firming up our next year's plan. Sunday School (for youth in pre-5th grade) will begin following our 9:30 service on Sunday, 27 Aug.



Start of J2A Parent's Night.



Our Journey's kick off event for parents and youth will take place on Wednesday, 23 Aug. As usual, we will begin with a shared dinner. Afterwards, we will offer parents and youth a brief overview of what to expect. If you, or a friend, are entering 6th – 12th grade, and would like to know more about Journeys, please plan to attend this event. In the meantime, stop by the Spirit Hub and let us know you are coming so that we can plan our meal accordingly.

Vacation Bible School was great this year!

We had 5 kids and 7 volunteers. We could really give the kids a lot of attention. The theme this year was A Journey with Joseph. I wrote this to really fit our kids. They all knew the life of Joseph by the end of the week! This group had great retention! We had stories, sang Bible songs and hymns, did crafts designed by Jean Cook, and learned new prayers. Every kid went home with a set of Graces to say at their own table. The games were mostly rowdy and fun.

We had a couple quieter games, but everyone wanted to move. One day the kids got to use streamers to mummify their leaders. The last day we all got wet! I hope to add a few kids each year. Thank you especially to my volunteers: Jean Cook, Judy Darrell, Kathy Buser, Jan Sinram, Anika Smith, Jon Nelson, & Caiya Smith. We could not have had such success without them.

-Cindy Pekarek

Christian Ed. Director



St. Mark's on the Campus



Attention all Lincoln bound college students. St Mark's on the Campus invites you to stop by for a visit. For over 100 years, they have been an Episcopal presence at UNL and for surrounding colleges. Beyond their worship, they offer students various activities throughout the school year, as well as a faith community to turn to when needed. Please let Fr. Tom know if you would like your contact information passed on to St. Mark's or email the rector, the Rev Robert Magoola, at smoc.rector@stmarks-episcopal.org

Outreach

Ice Packs for Magdalene Omaha

Thank you to all who donated ice packs for the Magdalen House water bottle street ministry. We filled the cooler with lots of blue love which we then shared with Magdalene Omaha. Dcn Tereasa was ecstatic when she saw the large number of ice packs for their ministry and wished many blessings for our parish's continued support.



School Supplies for Bellevue Together

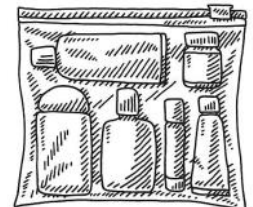


Thank you to all who donated school supplies in support of Bellevue Together's Back to School event. Due to your generosity, we not only were able to provide a plethora of supplies, but funds as well to be used to help fill in the gaps of the donations received.

Upcoming Mobile Pantry



During our August Mobile Pantry (Sat - 26 Aug), we are going to be offering our guests a bag of goodies along with food from the Foodbank for the Heartland. Each bag will include one toothbrush, one tube of toothpaste, one tube of shampoo, and one tube of conditioner, for each member in their household, and a bar of soap. We will need some help preparing the bags on the morning of the pantry and would really appreciate any help you can give in doing so. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 9:30am. Distribution begins at 10:00am and ends at 11:30am (or when the food runs out). Volunteers should enter the parking lot via the Thomas Dr entrance.



Outreach Continued

Tri-Faith United We Walk Event

Following a successful inaugural year with 2,200+ participants, The Omaha Tri-Faith Initiative is thrilled to host the second annual United We Walk fundraiser — a 1-mile loop around the Tri-Faith Commons near 132nd and Pacific streets — on Sunday, September 10. Funds raised for United We Walk directly benefit Tri-Faith's mission of cultivating inclusive environments that advance interfaith relationships and understanding. As a commemoration of the tragic events of 9/11, this gathering of so many different groups and viewpoints sends a clear message: Hatred and violence have no place in our community; as Americans, we are always stronger together.

We are invited to form a team and bring banners, signs, t-shirts, etc. to proudly express the joy of our community along with organizations, affiliations, and identities, from across the Omaha area.



There are two separate ways to register for this year's walk:

Free Registration Link:

<https://trifaithinitiative-bloom.kindful.com/e/united-we-walk-2023-free-registration->

\$25 Registration with T-Shirt Link

<https://trifaithinitiative-bloom.kindful.com/e/uww2023>

Santa Ana Mission



Thank you to all who donated funds to help the Santa Ana Mission, in the Dominican Republic, obtain electricity and running water. We raised just over \$2,000. Adding our \$1,500 goal to the \$1,200 collected by St. Mary's in Blair, we forwarded a total of \$2,700 to the Dominican Development Group, earmarked for the Santa Ana Mission. All additional funds received will be used to purchase supplies this coming November during our fall Mission Trip. Would you like to know more about this trip? If so, please get in touch with Fr. Tom.



Vestry Meeting Minutes July 13, 2023

Vestry Members present: Fr. Tom Jones, Patrick Howell, Judy Darrell, Ken Gomeringer, Leslie Nutting, Barb Smith, Cindy Pekarek, Kristi Swanson. Also present: Marcia Adams, treasurer and Carol McLaughlin, recorder

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM with prayer.

INFORMATION / UPDATES: Fr. Tom went over upcoming calendar items for the next month. Of note is Canon Liz's visit to the September vestry meeting when she will start to outline the process for a new clergy search. All Vestry members should plan to be present for this.

TREASURERS REPORT: Marcia Adams presented the financials for last month.

Budget vs. Actuals Report: Under Expenditures, Administrative, Bank Charges, \$515.90 was for miscellaneous fees and purchase of checks. Under Ministry Expenses, Building and Grounds \$261.53 was for sprinkler repair and Christian Education \$349.89 was for VBS.

Changes in Equity Report: Under FHFO/Outreach Misc Fund, expense for \$1934.07 was for canopies, coolers, and for toiletries plus cash gift for Magdalene. Under Mission / Mission Trip Camp Scholarship \$872.10 went for the pilgrimage to western Nebraska. Under Rector Support: \$250 went for family support and \$650 represented donations to churches visited on the Nebraska pilgrimage. Under Restricted Funds/Building Fund \$469.97 was for the mailbox and purchase of a canopy.

Balance Sheet: Cash assets less outstanding checks net \$2309,265.78. Total available assets: \$664,856.90.

Designated Funds Expenditures: Expense request forms were given to Treasurer to sign.

Fund	Expense	Amount
Rector Discretionary	Pilgrimage Support	200.00
Rector Discretionary	Pilgrimage Support	100.00
Rector Discretionary	Pilgrimage Support	100.00
Rector Discretionary	Pilgrimage Support	100.00
FHFO Misc.	Bishop Disc Fund	491.00
Building	Sign Posts	11.72
Building	Mail Box	242.64
Building	Paint	7.17
Outreach Misc.	Canopies and Coolers	806.52
Outreach Misc.	Toiletries – Mobile Pantry	386.57
Continuing Ed – Rector	Book	56.10
Camp & Mission	Pilgrimage Support	872.10
Camp & Mission	Camp Scholarships	1375.00

Motion M01-07-13: Judy moved that we accept the reports as presented. Barb seconded. Approved unanimously.

Motion M02-07-13: Cindy moved that we pay the bills. Ken seconded. Approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Fr. Tom gave an update on Santa Ana donations. We have received more than \$2,000 in donations. All monies received over \$1,500 will be held until the return trip to Santa Ana and used for supply expenses incurred at that time.

Cindy Pekarek reported that the Safeguarding God's Children certifications are on track.

Patrick Howell reported on his research on a proposed Bomba Sock Donation outreach program. More research is needed on exactly how this can work for us.

Barb Smith updated the Vestry on plans for the Arrows to Aerospace parade. She showed a drawing of the proposed float. Volunteers to help build the float on August 18 and ride or walk in the parade on August 19 are

needed; sign up at the Spirit Hub. Candy has been ordered to be handed out and also some will be packaged into cellophane bags with a CHS flyer.

Fr. Tom spoke about the search for a new organist. Julie's last Sunday with us is August 6. He is interviewing one applicant this week.

Leslie has proposed purchasing another stained-glass window insert. Patrick knows someone with a stained-glass studio who may be able to provide us with what we need, he will report back to Leslie.

Fr. Tom handed out a first look draft of the 2024 budget. He explained how the 2024 estimate was calculated; in most cases it is a straight 3% increase over last year's budgeted amount.

Fr. Tom went around the table; there were no further discussion items.

DECISION ITEMS:

There was continuing discussion of the pros and cons to a potential Sudanese ministry at CHS. It is between us and two other churches. If CHS is chosen for this ministry, the primary concerns in the early stages will be in the areas of Finance and the Altar Guild. Some questions include whether or not they will maintain their own finances, provide their own supplies for the services, have their own altar guild, and requirements for office and storage space. We do know they would hold their own services separate from ours. Any additional concerns should be brought to Fr. Tom's attention by email by Monday.

Fr. Tom asked for a vote on whether we should grill hamburgers at the parish picnic, as we did last year, or if we should order chicken tenders. The majority of members voted for chicken tenders; these will be ordered. Everett Park has been reserved for the picnic on August 13 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Parishioners can bring side dishes, there will be a general sign-up sheet at the Spirit Hub.

Fr. Tom will be submitting a resolution recommendation to be presented at Annual Council in support of including the option of sharing the Peace at the beginning of services, as we have been doing. Currently rubrics directs this to be scheduled at the midpoint of services (before the Eucharist). He asks anyone who wants to contribute to this to provide a couple of written paragraphs in support of this resolution. He needs to have this submitted 60 days prior to Annual Council.

Motion M03-07-13: Fr. Tom moved that we transfer \$1,000 from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to the Camp Scholarship Fund to cover some additional scholarships that were handed out this year. Cindy seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

There was no further business. **Motion M04-07-13:** Judy moved that the meeting adjourn. Leslie seconded. Approved unanimously.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Vestry will be August 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of June 30, 2023

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 10,088.00	\$ 17,265.92	\$ 100,058.00	\$ 103,595.50
Other Inc.	\$ 807.00	\$ 1,962.50	\$ 12,568.75	\$ 11,775.00
Total Inc	\$ 10,895.78	\$ 19,228.42	\$ 112,626.75	\$ 115,370.50
Expenses	\$ 17,097.38	\$ 19,303.83	\$ 115,961.71	\$ 115,823.00
			\$ 3,334.96	

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!



August 4 - First Friday Sack Lunch - 12:00
 August 13 - Finance Committee Meeting - 11:00
 August 13 - Parish Picnic - Betz Park - 11:00
 August 16 - Journeys Parents Meeting - 6:30
 August 17 - Vestry Meeting - 6:30
 August 20- Sunday School Open House - 10:45
 August 23 - J2A starts - 6:30
 August 26 - Mobile Food Pantry - 10:00
 August 27 - First Day of Sunday School



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

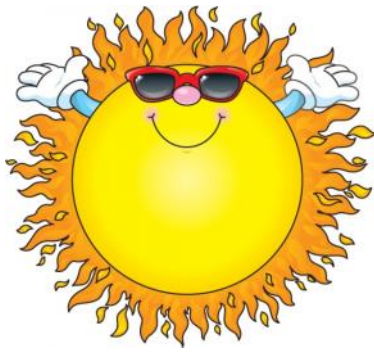
Ministries	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	
VPOD	Barb S	Patrick H	Judy D	Lori E	
Hospitality Team 9:30 am <i>Greeters , Ushers & Coffee Hour Host</i>	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	
Spirit Hub	Sharon J/ Karen G/ Judy D	Ali C	Cindy P	Dean O	
Altar Bread	Leslie N	Leslie N	Leslie N	Leslie N	
Recycle Team	Jan S	Marcia A	Lynda W	Karen G	
LEM Saturday 5:00	Alberta Y	Charlotte A	Kristi S	Charlotte A	
LEM Sunday 8:00 am	Doug A	Rick S	Doug A	Rick S	
LEM Sunday 9:30 am	Anika S Jan S	Lori E Vince C	Michele H Terri S	Jennifer W Anika S	
Acolytes	Crucifer Torch Torch Server 1 Server 2	Kyper M Ailynn M McKenzie C Vincent C Evelynn C	Vincent C Evelynn C Mya S	Evelynn C Kyper M Ailynn M	Isaiah C H Mya S McKenzie C



**Please submit articles for the
 September 2023 FLAME to the
 church office by August 22nd.
 Thank you**



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Regular Services:

Sunday: 8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II *
Wednesday: 9:30 am Holy Eucharist *
Saturday: 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist
* Broadcast live on Facebook

Education: September- May

Sunday: Sunday School @ 10:30 am
Wednesday: Bible Study @ 10:15 am
Journeys to Adulthood @ 6:30 pm

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am–3:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am–Noon

Rector's Day Off:

Friday

The Flame is a monthly production of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, in Bellevue, Nebraska. We welcome all stories, pictures, and suggestions, but must reserve the right to choose what we can print. Please send articles and pictures to CHS Admin at holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org. The next deadline for submitting news is August 22nd.

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

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The Flame
Newsletter of The Church of the Holy Spirit - Episcopal
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