



The Flame

May 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.

Daughters of the King

Holy Spirit's Chapter of the Daughters of the King® welcomed 2 new members into the Order on Easter morning through a Service of Admission. Terri Storm and Barb Smith completed their 3-month study and discernment period earlier this spring with Toby Wingert and Karen Gray as their mentors. During the service, other members of the Chapter joined in the service where Terri and Barb promised to obey the Rules of the Order, the Rule of Prayer, and Rule of Service. Father Tom blessed their crosses, so now Terri and Barb will faithfully wear them.

The chapter currently prays for those who need prayers of healing, coping, thanksgiving, and guidance. They also pray for those who travel, mourn, are shut-in or other special intentions. If you have a prayer request, please fill out a blue card in the pew and put it in the offertory plate, on the desk in the office, or give it to any of the Daughters. You could also email the church and the request can be forwarded. The chapter also sends out the birthday and anniversary notes, and college care boxes.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King®, please contact the current president, Sharon Jones, or any Daughter (look for the cross). The study and discernment period can be made to adapt to anyone's schedule.



Fr. Tom's Tidbits



As I sit down to begin this month's tidbits, I am sitting in the lobby of the TWA hotel at JFK airport. It is an interesting place, filled with nostalgic memorabilia from a time not all that long ago. In the background is music from the 50s-60s. While I never flew on the propellor aircraft sitting outside the lobby, it is really nice to look at. What a fun way to begin a vacation. It is also a reminder that while vacations are a time to rest, they are also a time to reflect on what has been and on what lays ahead. I seem to do this more and more the older I get. How nice it is to have my recent trip to the Dominican Republic fresh in my mind. Looking back at it, I am reminded of the many summers our parish headed up the youth mission for the diocese and how our youth were able to take part in each and every trip that was offered.

Part of me wishes we would have kept leading this invaluable ministry; but when we handed it off for another to lead, it felt like the right time to do so. Sadly, the pandemic shut things down for a while, and the church that took over never really got things going as they had hoped. Those who were once excited seemed to have lost the drive; and with such a large gap in trips, we no longer have the continuity of youth we once enjoyed, who could share their experience in a way that encourages new youth to join in. I hope, with the re-emergence of trips this year, we can get things going again. I am really excited about our Journeys Pilgrimage this June, the youth trip to the DR in July, and the adult trip to the DR in November.

A few years back, the vestry did a book study, and one of the key things we took away from our study was that a church in mission is a church that is alive. Consumerism in the church, that desire to sit and receive, instead of getting up and doing, was a trend to be avoided. While we have done a good job of keeping busy over the years, it is time to look back at what we have done and relook at what lays ahead. With our community growing again, new ideas will surely emerge and new possibilities for mission and ministry will take shape. I pray we are open enough to embrace these new opportunities to share the many blessings we enjoy, blessings poured out on us and through us.

We don't have to go across the planet to serve, nor do we have to travel across the state either. To serve, we may only have to cross the distance of one or two steps from where we are. There are opportunities right here in our midst, in our neighborhood, and in the surrounding community. I encourage each of us to keep our eyes open to see where we, with God's help, can make a difference. Then, let us not just take notice, but take action as well.

Father Tom

Youth Emergency Services

We will wrap up our in-gathering of donations for Youth Emergency Services' summer water bottle ministry on Sunday (14 Jun). When making your donation, please note YES in the memo line of your check.



The Office will be closed Monday May 29th for Memorial Day to honor those who went before.

Parish Life

Parish Clean-up

Thank you to all who came and helped with our Spring Parish Clean-up. The turnout was great and we got so much accomplished. There are always things needing a little attention here at the church. If you have some spare time this summer, and are looking for something to do to fill it in, contact the church office or the chairs of our Building & Grounds ministry, Dean Olander or Chris Darrell.



Daughters' Care Packages



On Thursday, April 13, a group of Daughters of the King® members met in the parish hall to fill boxes for our parish's college students. Goodies donated by the DOK included such items as fruit snacks, granola bars, chips, Rice Krispie treats, microwave popcorn, cookies, applesauce and pudding cups. A note was placed in the box wishing the student good luck on their finals and finishing off the school year.



Mother's Day & Youth Sunday

With Fr. Tom on the road, and to give our youth preacher a little more time to collect her thoughts, we have postponed Youth Sunday until Sunday (14 May). Yes, we know this is Mother's Day as well; but what a wonderful day it will be. Please plan to attend one of three services that weekend.



Recognition Sunday

Recognition Sunday will take place on Sunday (21 May) at our 9:30am service. Please help us recognize the hard work of our youth by letting the office know of any youth (or adults) who are finishing grammar school, middle school, high school, or college.



Spirit Hub Hosting



Beginning on Pentecost Sunday (28 May) our Spirit Hub will be hosted, on a rotational basis, by one of our various parish ministries. Ministry Team Leaders are reminded, if you haven't forwarded the name of your ministry volunteer to the office, please do so as soon as possible. We encourage everyone to stop by the Hub to learn about the hosting ministry as well as to sign up there for any of the upcoming activities, or just to learn more about what is happening here at CHS. If you notice a guest, or bring one with you to worship, please ask them to visit the Hub to get a free gift bag and to leave us their contact information so that we have a record of their visit and thank them for visiting.

Cursillo

Cursillo is back. On the weekend of June 22-25, the Nebraska Cursillo team will host Cursillo #27 at the Immaculate Monastery in Norfolk, NE. The Cursillo weekend is an active challenge to pursue a life of Christian service with the support of the Christian community. To join in the weekend's activities, candidates need to fill out the Candidate Application, Sponsor Endorsement and Clergy Endorsement Forms.



All meals, beverages, and supplies will be furnished to participants. Parish members interested in attending can get the required forms from either Fr. Tom or Ruth Richter. The \$25 application fee will be paid via scholarship for attending. To learn more about Nebraska Cursillo, please visit <https://www.nebraskaepiscopalcursillo.org>.

Youth

Stations of the Cross

On Wednesday during Holy Week, our Journeys youth invited members of the parish to join them for a prayer walk along the Stations of the Cross. Our stations, hanging in the sanctuary, were made and donated by the



Rev. Howard Sheck, a former member and associate priest here at CHS. Reading in turn, our youth, and their mentors, moved from station to station, hearing the story of our Lord's journey to the cross. While the evening was filled with a feeling solemnity, afterwards our youth spent a lot of time going back and paying attention to the details of each of the stations.

Foods of Jesus

On Palm Sunday Christian Education once again presented the foods that Jesus may have eaten. The youth had a chance to try food still around after 2000 years. They had a chance to try lamb, dates, and figs along with foods they already knew such as grapes and olives.



Easter Egg Hunt

This year's Easter Egg Hunt was another success! There were places for both older kids and younger kids to hunt. Thank you to all of our teens and young adults that helped hide eggs. Of course 8 feet up in a tree was a hard one! The kids ended up recruiting Bobby and William to retrieve it. This was appropriate since they were the ones that hid it up high! Some of the eggs also had gold coins in them. The kids could use these to donate to those in need in 3 categories; children, food, or environment. In exchange, they got to choose a bigger prize. All of the families had a great time! Happy Easter! He is Risen!



Papio Fun Park

Last month, our Journeys youth, along with some of their friends, enjoyed an evening at Papio Fun Park jumping in the bouncy rooms, playing some laser tag, video games and miniature golf. Some of the parents who stayed as the youth enjoyed themselves got to enjoy the wonderful weather as they played a round of miniature golf as well.



Fr. Tom ventured into the laser tag arena with the youth and quickly found himself the favorite target, even of his own team members. A great night of fun was had by all.

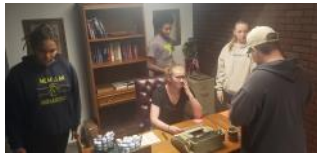


Journeys Crossings Service



On Wednesday (10 May) our Journeys youth will celebrate the end of their program year with the celebration of their Crossings Service. During this service, we acknowledge the steps they have taken, and the steps ahead on their journeys of faith. The service will begin at 7pm, following their shared dinner. All are invited to join them for worship. If you wish to attend the dinner, please sign up at the Spirit Hub to let us know you will be attending so we can plan accordingly.

Journeys Escape Room



On Wednesday (31 May) we are planning a Journeys youth night at a nearby Escape Room. Watch the Spark for updates on date and time. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Spirit Hub beginning Sunday (14 May).

VBS

Planning is underway, and before we know it, this year's Vacation Bible School will be upon us. The dates for our VBS this year are 26-29 Jun. We are once again planning an evening offering of 6-8pm for youth 4-12 years of age. If you would like to know how you can help our team with VBS preparation, please contact Cindy Pekarek or Jean Cook. VBS registration at the Spirit Hub and online will begin on Pentecost Sunday (28 May).



Troop 483 Eagle Project



On Saturday (27 May) a scout from Troop 483B will hold a flag retirement ceremony here at CHS as part of his Eagle Project. If you have an American Flag that is worn, torn, or no longer needed, please drop it by the church office. All flags received will be honorably retired in accordance with United States Flag Code, Title 4, Section 8k. All are welcome to attend. Watch our announcements for an update on the time of this ceremony.



Outreach

Mobile Pantry

Waking up to see white fluffy stuff falling from the skies was not the weather we had hoped for, but thankfully, the snow did not amount to anything more than the few flurries we saw and the wind was not blowing. Although a bit chilly, it ended up being a really nice day for the work we had before us; and work we did. Our guest began lining up just after 9:00 am as the food truck arrived. Beginning our



distribution at 10, we had a very steady flow of people stopping by for grocery assistance. By 11am, we had run out of product. This is the first time in several months we have run out so quickly. Special thanks to the Cub Scouts, parishioners, and community volunteers who braved the chilly temperatures to be there for our guests. Oh, and we cannot forget to thank the Daughters of the King for providing coffee and hot chocolate for our volunteers.

Holy Week

Parish Life

What a blessed week. The wonderful weather we enjoyed on Palm Sunday right on through to Easter only added to the blessings we found as we gathered together to worship, hearing the story of Jesus' atoning sacrifice, and celebrating the good news that He Lives!. The only thing that detracted from an otherwise outstanding week was that on Easter Sunday, as coffee hour drew to a close, water started backing up the drains in the kitchen, restrooms, and storage area. Turns out, our main drain had a major blockage. Thankfully, Roto Rooter was able



to come and clear things out. Please remember, do not pour grease down any of the parish drains as it settles in the piping on its long journey to the sewer system. Special thanks to all those who worked so hard to make our Holy Week so blessed, especially our Altar Guild, Our Vocal and Bell Choirs, our Hospitality Teams, and of course all who attended one or more of our services.





Outreach

Adult DR Mission Trip



What a week. We left early on a Saturday morning and part of our team arrived in Santa Domingo late in the afternoon. Our team was split on two airlines and unfortunately, the rest of the team did not arrive until late Saturday night. Finally together at the San Francisco Hostel, we grabbed a bite to eat and headed to our rooms as we had an early start on Sunday. Up and out very early, we attended worship at the church we were going to work at and got to meet many of its members. We expected to do some work that afternoon, but without our supplies we had to wait until Monday. Not wanting to waste an opportunity, we walked around the colonial district and got to see the sights, including the oldest cathedral in the Americas and Christopher Columbus' home.

Our work began on Monday. First order of business was scrapping and prepping the outside of the church for painting. This went quicker than we expected and shortly after lunch we began to put the first coat of pain on the front and one side of the church. The next few days were more and more painting. We replaced a broken door knob and lock and stained the red doors as well. By Wednesday evening, we had completed most of what we had hoped to before joining the parish in an evening service and dinner. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the members of Santa Ana as they approached was reward enough. Thursday we accomplished the finishing touches and did a major clean-up before heading back to the hotel to pack and get ready for our return flight.



This was an amazing trip and filled with many blessings. The work was not overly strenuous and the feeling of accomplishment cannot be understated. There is much work to do in this community as it strives to rejuvenate a once abandoned and neglected church. Watch for future articles that will outline how we can continue to make a difference in their lives. DioNeb has another adult trip planned for early Nov. If you would like to know how you can be part of it and the work they will do, contact Fr. Tom.

Youth Pilgrimage and Mission Trip

Registration is open for our Journeys youth prayer pilgrimage and mission trip, traveling and visiting Episcopal churches across the diocese. Along the way, our team will pray for the communities they visit, perform some sort of service project, and enjoy a little sightseeing as well. A copy of the planned itinerary is posted on the youth bulletin board in the parish hall. This trip is open to all parish youth (12-18). The cost for parish youth who pre-register is \$150 and \$250 for youth who wish to participate. A parish scholarship (from the mission/camp fund) will cover the remaining costs. To pre-register, please sign up at the Spirit Hub and then pick up a registration form. Registration Forms should be returned to the office no later than Wednesday (31 May).



Youth DR Mission Trip

DIONE B's youth mission trip to the DR (for ages 16-20) is just around the corner (1-7 July). Youth from CHS who are going are selling "Stock Shares" to help fund their pilgrimage. We can help them out by purchasing one or more of their \$25 shares. All shareholders will be thanked with a shareholder's dinner, after the trip, on Saturday (26 Aug) beginning at 6:30 pm. During the dinner, participants will share some of their pictures and thoughts about the trip.



CHS Vestry Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2023

Vestry Members present: Kristi Smith, Barb Smith, Leslie Nutting, Ken Gomeringer, Judy Darrell, Cindy Pekarek, Lori Erickson, Fr. Tom Jones

Also present: Marcia Adams, Treasurer and Carol McLaughlin, Recorder

The meeting was opened at 6:36 PM with prayer.

INFORMATION / UPDATES:

Fr. Tom went over the upcoming month's calendar events. Of note were his absences from April 15 - 21 for the Dominican Republic Mission Trip and April 24 to May 10 for vacation. For these absences Mark Selvey will be the supply clergy. Also note: The Eagle Project on May 27 will be for a Retirement of US Flags ceremony, and everyone is welcome to bring old flags for proper disposal.

TREASURERS REPORT: Marcia went over the following reports:

Budget vs. Actuals: Our YTD total contributions is at 105.8% while our total administrative expenses is under that at 105.5%. Noted that the Outreach expense of \$1,200 represents contributions to Bellevue Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels and the Bellevue Fire Department. Nothing else of note on the report.

Changes in Equity: Of note was expense of \$362 under Outreach Miscellaneous which was for Magdalene House, and \$916 under Building Fund which was for the new security cameras.

Balance Sheet: Our Net Cash Assets (cash assets minus outstanding checks) are \$236,526.30. Fund Balance total is \$191,266.06. Our Total Available Assets (Fund balances plus Reserve plus Endowment) come to \$658,752.36.

Motion M04-13-01: Ken moved that we accept the reports as presented. Cindy seconded the motion.

Unanimous approval. **Motion M04-13-02:** Leslie moved that we pay the bills. Judy seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Fr. Tom then went over the past month's designated funds requests.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Fund</u> | <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 3/28/23 | Building Fund | New Surveillance Cameras | 916.78 |
| 4/11/23 | Vicar of Mission Fund | Supply Clergy | 259.80 |
| 4/12/23 | Building Fund | Unclog Main Drain | 605.00 |
| 4/12/23 | Vicar of Mission Fund | Clergy Travel Insurance | 58.33 |

Regarding the \$605 expense for unclogging the drain: Fr. Tom wanted to emphasize the importance for everyone to avoid putting grease or large food products or anything else that will produce a clog into the drains. This includes the pig garbage disposal. There are cans underneath the kitchen counter to hold grease, and food should be first scraped into the trash before being rinsed into the pig. Some discussion was held as to the reason our system is prone to clogging, and what we could do to fix this. One thing we can do is periodically flush all toilets at once to push a large amount of water through the drains. A couple other things were recommended that could eliminate the need for unclogging drains in the future: We could do a complete clean-out with a router of the pipe system. Another recommendation is to put a clean-out opening outside the building. Quotes will be requested for these recommended procedures.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

While Fr. Tom is on the Mission Trip and on vacation, someone will need to come early to open the church before each service for the supply clergy. Kristi will do this on Saturday 4/15, and Sharon Jones will be here to open on Sunday 4/16. On Saturday 4/29 and 5/6 Kristi will again come early to open up and Patrick as VPOD will be asked to be here early to open up on Sunday 4/30 and Lori as VPOD will open on 5/7.

New camera system update: We have the new security cameras ready to install. This will be scheduled as soon possible; Jean will coordinate this during Fr. Tom's upcoming absences.

Spirit Hub ministry schedule: Fr. Tom handed out instructions and a schedule for the weekly hosting of the Spirit Hub. Ministries are to get the name of the person hosting their week by the end of this month.

We need to reassign some ministry liaisons due to outgoing vestry members. New member Barb will assume Youth and Acolytes ministries. New member Patrick will be liaison for Christian Ed, Outreach and Evangelism.

DECISION ITEMS:

Lawn treatment service quotes: Barb obtained quotes from Lawncrafters (\$634.50) and Heroes (\$706.50). Both are for 5 treatments. Vestry agreed that we should go ahead with lawn treatments this year. **Motion M04-13-03:** Barb moved that we give the contract to Lawncrafters. Judy seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Fr. Tom wants to move some Discretionary Funds. There is currently \$22,000 in this fund. He suggests moving \$2,500 to the Building Fund and \$2,500 to the Youth Mission & Camp Fund for additional scholarships. **Motion M04-13-04:** Fr. Tom moved to proceed with these transfers. Kristi seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Fr. Tom asked for some tasks to be taken on during his upcoming absences:

We need the mobile pantry banner hung on Monday or Tuesday (4/17-18). Someone from Building & Grounds will be asked to do this.

Motion M04-13-05: Fr. Tom moved that we contact Trees Shrubs & More to begin the soil prep in front and clearing in the back soon after he returns from vacation, to be ready for the Eagle Scouts to begin their projects. Leslie seconded the motion. Unanimous approval. Someone needs to contact Trees Shrubs & More to let them know. Building & Grounds will be asked to contact them during Fr. Tom's absence.

Fr. Tom asked if there was any further business.

Cindy is ready to begin planning for VBS scheduled for the last week of June, and again will be looking for adult volunteers.

Next vestry meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

Motion M04-13-06: Judy moved that we adjourn. Lori seconded. Unanimous approval. Adjourned at 7:37 PM.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of February 28, 2023

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budgeted</u> | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Pledged | \$ 15,182.00 | \$ 17,265.92 | \$ 51,158.00 | \$ 51,797.75 |
| Other Inc. | \$ 1,239.00 | \$ 1,962.50 | \$ 9,195.00 | \$ 5,887.50 |
| Total Inc | \$ 16,421.00 | \$ 19,228.42 | \$ 60,353.00 | \$ 57,685.25 |
| Expenses | \$ 18,854.54 | \$ 19,303.83 | \$ 56,148.54 | \$ 57,911.50 |
| | | | \$ 4,204.46 | |

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!

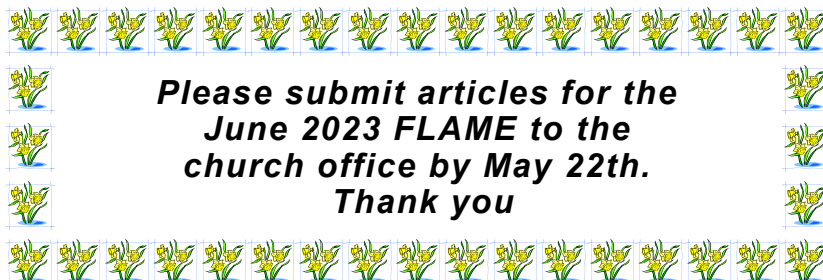


May 05 - First Friday Women of Spirit - Noon
May 10 - Journey's Crossing - 6:30pm
May 14 - Youth Sunday Service - 9:30am
May 14 - Finance Committee Meeting - 10:45am
May 17 - Wednesday Morning Service resume
May 18 - Vestry Meeting - 6:30pm
May 20 - Parish Clean - Up 9:30am - 1:00pm
May 21 - Recognition Sunday
May 28 - Pentecost Sunday - Wear **Red**



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

| Ministries | May 7 | May 14 | May 14 Youth | May 21 | May 28 |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| VPOD | Lori E | Ken G | | Cindy P | Leslie N |
| Hospitality Team 9:30 am Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host | Team 4 | Team 1 | Ushers: Isaiah Mya Greeters: Ciaya Anthony | Team 2 | Team 3 |
| Altar Guild | Team 1 | Team 2 | | Team 3 | Team 4 |
| Recycle Team | Jan S | Marcia A | | Lynda W | Karen G |
| LEM Saturday 5:00 | Alberta Y | Charlotte A | | Kristi S | Alberta Y |
| LEM Sunday 8:00 am | Rick S | Doug A | | Ken G | Rick S |
| LEM Sunday 9:30 am | Jennifer W Lori E | Jan S Anika S | Isaiah McKenzie | Michele H Terri S | Lori E Vince C |
| Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch Server 1 Server 2 | Isaiah C H Ailynn M Kyper M | Olivia Vincent C Evelynn C | | Olivia H Kyper M McKenzie | Isaiah J H Mya S Akina C Vincent C Eric G |



Please submit articles for the
June 2023 FLAME to the
church office by May 22th.
Thank you



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May



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 May 22th

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

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The Flame
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