



The Flame

June 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.

It is that time again. Preparations have been underway for this year's VBS to be held between Monday (26 Jun) and Thursday (29 Jun). Once again, we will be offering youth between the ages of 4 and 11 an evening program from 6:00-8:00pm. The theme this year is.....

Crafts

Games

A JOURNEY
WITH
JOSEPH VBS



Food

Music

Registration is now open. Just visit our website (www.chsepcopal.org) and click on the VBS 2023 button on the Home Page. It will take you to our online registration form where you can fill it out and register your youth. We are asking a \$10 donation per youth on the first night to help offset the cost. Between now and the start of VBS, during coffee hour, Cindy and the Christian Ed staff would welcome any help you might be able to offer in making their final preparations. Also, anyone interested in helping on one or more of our evening sessions are asked to contact Cindy for more details.

Stories

Skits

Fr. Tom's Tidbits



Hard to believe it is already June. This year seems to be flying by. With all we have planned this summer, I suspect it will fly by just as quickly; and before we know it, our fall program will be upon us. Summer is a good time for the church to regroup. It's a great opportunity for our ministry teams to look back at what went well during the previous program year and what did not, and to then tweak things so that our next run-through goes smoother and better. It is also time for us to re-examine those things we do, that maybe need more than just a tweak.

While over the last few years we have done a lot to spruce up the place, our building and grounds ministry is having difficulty keeping up, especially in managing the various gardens on our church property. To meet the growing needs, Dean and Chris could really use a few extra hands to help, not only during our parish clean-ups, but throughout the year as well. If you would like to find out how you can make a difference, check out the article in this month's Flame about adopting a garden, or contact Dean, Chris, or call the office.

I know, we seem to always be asking for volunteers. At the beginning of the year, it was to help our altar guild, and now our building and grounds. And as soon as we make progress here, we will most likely seek out more volunteers to help another ministry live more fully into their calling. It feels like we just never have enough volunteers to do what is needed. I'd like to let you in on a little secret, we don't, and if the Spirit is moving us in the right direction we never will. You see, as ministries grow, so too do the needs they are trying to meet.

At first glance, one might think we need to stop trying to do so much; and to a degree, they would be right. Trying to do everything often leads to doing very little, as people get burned out or disappointed when they feel their efforts are wasted. Post pandemic, we, like most churches, are rebuilding. As we do, it is important we remember that our foundation must be solid before trying to build out. That is why we have been focusing on the needs of one ministry at a time. This can feel frustrating as it seem unending.

To help identify the needs of our ministries, and to ease the strain on others, we have begun the shared ministry of hosting at the Spirit Hub. Our hope is this will enable better communication, as the Hub becomes our central point of information about what is happening; and that in doing so, ministries are better able to highlight what they do, what they need, and what they aspire to become. Want to know which ministry is hosting each week? Check out the sign, then stop by to say hi. Who knows, maybe in doing so we will run across a need, we can meet.

Father Tom



Bishop's Visit

The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!! That's right, Bishop Barker will be here on Sunday (18 Jun). During his visit we will celebrate baptisms, confirmations, and receptions and he will be offering our pilgrims a special prayer as they prepare to depart on their pilgrimage across the diocese. We would love to have everyone who can, join us in-person for either our 8:00 or 9:30 am service on that Sunday, and then to stick around afterwards for refreshments and hopefully get a chance to visit with the Bishop. As always, if you can't make it to church, we broadcast our 9:30am service live on Facebook.

Parish Life

Pentecost Sunday



Last month we celebrated the feast of Pentecost. After the service, which included our Bell Choir, group photos were taken. As you can see, we had a large number of members join in what has become our annual tradition of wearing something red.

Pentecost is not only a great day in the life of the wider church, a day that celebrates the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit, it is also our parish feast

day, celebrating the work of the Spirit in our lives today. From all the smiles seen on the faces of those who were able to be here, it looks like the Spirit is doing a pretty good job.



Parish Clean-up

On Saturday (10 Jun) we will hold our annual Spring Clean-up to spruce up the place as we get ready for the Bishop's visit on Sunday (18 Jun). Volunteers are needed as we have several outdoor projects and a few indoor projects we would like to complete. None of the projects require special skills, only a willingness to lend a hand. As always, the more volunteers we can get, the more we get done and what needs doing gets done faster. Please sign up at the Spirit Hub to let us know you are planning to join in the fun. For more information, please contact Chris Darrell.

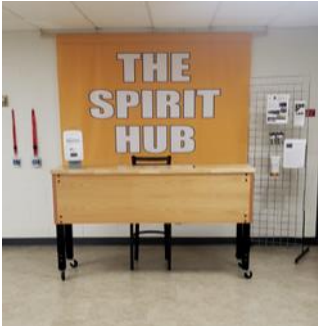


Adopt a Parish Garden



We are looking for volunteers to help maintain our six parish gardens. They do not require lots of attention, but a visit to weed and trim a few times during the growing season would greatly enhance their beauty. Would you, or your family, like to care for one of them? If so, please contact Dean Olander, Chris Darrell, or the office.

Hosting of Spirit Hub



The new Spirit Hub hosting ministry is up and running. We are so excited to have our various ministry teams taking turns to be a visible presence at the Hub for our guests and members alike. Have questions? Our hosts will help you find the answer. Want to sign-up for an activity, or want to learn more about the hosting ministry, stop by the Hub and visit with our weekly host. A schedule of Hub hosts can be found on the bulletin board outside the office. Would you like to help out, but are not really comfortable in crowds? Fr. Tom is looking for a volunteer who might be interested in leading the Hub host ministry team. Responsibilities include coordinating the schedule and ensuring needed supplies are available. For more information about this new position, please contact Fr. Tom.

How to Pray

Excerpts Taken from *The Royal Cross*, the Quarterly Magazine of The Order of the Daughters of the King®

Volume 88, Issue 4, Winter 2022/23

How to Pray – A Simple Method to Follow

By Sydney Breeze Lowe



Prayer is the simplest, the most difficult, and the most fundamental duty of all Christians.

Yet, when it comes to being asked to pray, aloud or privately with someone, it is one of the scariest endeavors Christians attempt, if they attempt it at all.

Even minimal daily prayer increases our ability to see God at work around us. As we pray, not only for our own needs but also for those of others, we grow in faith. As we listen for God's voice, we learn to recognize and act on the whispered responses to our prayers. Over time, daily prayer creates in our hearts a flowing spring of praise and thanksgiving to our awesome God.

Why is prayer such a fearful thing? Perhaps it is because many of us believe we are not spiritual enough to pray aloud. All the prayers we have heard were ornate, long, and full of distinguished words. How can we ever pray this way? Have heart, that is not what prayer is meant to be; it is a conversation between you and God. Nothing more, nothing less. But if it is still a fearful thing, the following format may just open up that door for a fuller prayer life.

S. T. A. F.

S - Salutation; T - Thankfulness; A - Ask; and, F - finish.

This is a simple format for prayer anyone can use. Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 is a wonderful example of the S.T.A.F. method.

Salutation: "For this reason, I kneel before the Father ..."

Thankfulness: "... from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name."

Ask: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask (insert request)"

Finish: "... according to his power ... to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations."

Amen: Sealed in trust, faith, and truth.

There you have it: short, sweet, and to the point. A simple way of formatting a prayer, aloud with another. No fancy words, no long oration, just plain simple words spoken with God. So, "Lord, what will you have me do?"

Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training

Fr. Tom is hoping to reactivate our Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) ministry. LEVs visit our homebound, bringing CHS to those who cannot come to us. After a short training session, LEVs also take communion to those they visit, helping our homebound stay connected, feeling and sharing in the love of a community they have been part of for so much of their lives. A Two-hour training session will be held for all those interested in this ministry on Saturday (24 Jun) beginning at 11:00 am. Please let Fr. Tom know that you are interested in attending so that we can have enough of the training materials ready.



Youth

J2A Crossings



Last month, we celebrated the end of another program year for our Journeys Ministry, with a service during which we acknowledged and honored those who moved between groups. While we had no graduates this year, we do have some who are entering their last year as young adults before stepping out into the world as adults. Journeys is open to all youth, ages 12-18, or youth who are entering the 6th through 12th grade. We meet on Wednesday evenings during the school year from 6:30-8:15pm. For

more information about Journeys, please contact any of our Journeys mentors or call the church office.



Eagle Project



Over the Memorial Day weekend, Troop 483 performed a flag retirement ceremony as part of one of our scout's Eagle Project. With over 100 flags, the ceremony went off wonderfully. Anthony even invited guests to be part of the ceremony, each respectfully laying their flag in the fire.



Acolyte Team Leader

We are looking for one or two volunteers to help lead our Acolyte ministry team. A ministry team leader would be responsible for training and scheduling our Sunday teams, monitoring the cleanliness and serviceability of our youth vestments, and coordinating with the Worship Committee on a quarterly basis. For more information, please contact Fr. Tom.



Outreach

Donations for YES water bottle program



A shout out to all who donated funding in support of the Youth Emergency Services summer water bottle ministry. We raised a total of \$250.

Donations for Episcopal Relief and Development and Good Friday Offering

A shout out to all who donated funding in support of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and to the Good Friday collection. We raised a total of \$311.37 for ERD and \$260 for the Good Friday Fund.

Episcopal Relief & Development works with our partners worldwide to alleviate hunger, create economic opportunities, respond to disasters, promote health, and strengthen communities. The Good Friday offering, collected across the Episcopal Church, supports the ministries of three dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, helping provide a Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One, vital and effective, working towards peace and understanding among all of God's children.



Daughters of the King Ladies' Tea

On Sunday, May 28, members of the DOK hosted a tea for the female residents of the Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home. The ladies enjoyed tea, finger sandwiches and sweets. From the many conversations, the DOK learned about these women who either served themselves or supported their spouses who served. The tea concluded with entertainment from Ric Darrell, Chris' brother, who led everyone in a sing-along of patriotic songs from over the years like Yankee Doodle Dandy, Battle Hymn of the Republic, the anthems from the different branches of the military, God Bless the USA.



Special thanks to Judy Darrell for organizing the tea. Thanks to Sandy Vassar and Teri Storm for allowing us to use their tea sets. Thanks also to Joan Olander for the cucumber sandwiches, and to the DOK members who provided goodies and who attended.



Youth Mission Trip to the DR



Unfortunately, the Diocesan trip planned for July is cancelled. Due to fundraising difficulties youth outside our parish had, the overlap of the Triannual Episcopal Youth Event, and passport issues this trip is being postponed until next summer. If you donated to CHS youth, your donation will remain in reserve to fund the same youth next year. The August stockholder's dinner will also be rescheduled once the 2024 dates are known. We regret the inconvenience and disappointment this decision brings.

Adult Mission Trip to the DR

Planning is still underway for an Adult trip scheduled for 4-10 Nov. This team will be returning to the Santa Ana Mission in Santa Domingo. Fundraising to help support parish members interested in going will begin towards the end of July to allow enough time to avoid fundraising difficulties experienced in the planning of the youth trip. For more information about this trip, and scholarships available, please contact Fr. Tom who will then put you in contact with the diocesan trip coordinator.



Magdalene House Omaha

Magdalene Omaha has finished their move and are now in their new facility. Our normal fundraising for their ministry was delayed during their move. At last month's Vestry meeting, we voted to provide Magdalene Omaha with an outdoor canopy, weights to use to keep it from blowing away, and both a large and small cooler to support their street ministry using funds from our Outreach Misc Fund. If you would like to make a donation to help support their new ministry, please note Magdalene House on the memo line of your check.



Mobile Pantry

Our next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Saturday (23 Jun). As usual, we ask volunteers to arrive by 9:30am entering through the Thomas Dr parking lot entrance. Distribution will take place between 10-11:30am. Please help us spread the word to those in need of grocery assistance. At this month's pantry, along with the food we will be offering, thanks to a small grant we received, we are hoping to distribute small bags with tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, and deodorant or shampoo.



DioNeb Bishop's Society

The Bishop's Society is now entering its 11th year of service to DioNeb. Over this time Society members have supported six curates, who have served parishes across the diocese, and provided both parishes and clergy with continuing education opportunities. The Diocese is looking to expand the Society's membership in hopes of broadening their ministry of Advancing Clergy Excellence. If you would like to know more about the Bishop's Society, or how you might become a member, please contact Fr. Tom.



Free money for the Church

Did you know you can contribute to the church just by shopping?

Baker's Rewards

TO ENROLL IN THE COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Members must visit Baker's website at www.bakersplus.com

- Sign in OR create an account (if you need help, see Sharon)
- Go to "My Account" under your sign in name
- On the Menu list on the left, click on Community Rewards
- Click on Enroll
- Under "Find an Organization", either type in **IB693** or **Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)**

Click on Enroll.

When you shop, make sure to swipe your Plus card or enter the registered phone number. Every time that you purchase qualifying items at Baker's the amount is contributed to Holy Spirit. CHS then is given a percentage allocation of Baker's giving based on the percentage of total purchases by all organizations. The more that our members purchase at Baker's, the larger our share of their giving. Typically, the amount has averaged about \$125 every quarter. Free money!

Also, check your receipts. It should state that "At your request, Bakers is contributing to Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)"



In The Episcopal Church, we don't try to make anyone feel guilty. We try to make everyone feel loved. (Cartoon by Baloo)

Vestry Meeting Minutes

18 May 2023

Fr Tom opened the meeting with prayer.

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

During the look at upcoming events, it was noted that the planned Parish Clean-up day needed to be rescheduled and that the Bell Choir would be playing for both Pentecost and the Bishop's visit in June.

Treasurer's Report:

Marcia was not able to attend, so Fr. Tom gave our financial update. - Beginning with the Budget-vs-Actual report, it was noted that year to date we are at 98% on pledge giving received and our total operating income is at 102%. The slight drop in total income is the balancing out of earlier large sum giving. Under expenses, Altar Guild had a larger than normal expense for Easter flowers, Outreach for their budgeted contributions to neighborhood ministries, and Lawn service for the prepayment of lawn treatments. Year to date, income exceeds expenses by \$3,398.

The Vestry reviewed all fund expenditures for the month of April. included in these expenditures:

Funeral Fund	\$68.08	ERD Fund	\$311.37	DOK Fund	\$80.14
Rector Disc Fund	\$746.05	Bldg Fund	\$96.63	Vicar of Msn	\$369.67
Good Fri Fund	\$260.00	Bldg Fund	\$1544.40		

Our Endowment Fund grew by \$3,377 in April. So far this year we have been blessed with slow, but steady growth. **MO-05-18-01** was made by Lori Erickson to accept the reports as presented. Seconded by Cindy Pekarek. Motion passed with unanimous consent. **MO 05-18-02** was made by Judy Darrell to pay the bills, seconded by Leslie Nutting; motion passed with unanimous consent.

Discussion Items:

During the past month, we received several thank you notes from organizations we donated to as part of our Outreach ministry. A comment was made that it was nice that they acknowledged the gift.

Fr. Tom offered an update on our new camera installation. All cables have been run. What is needed next is for us to install connectors and mount cameras. Fr. Tom is hoping to complete this during our next parish clean-up day.

A new sign for outside the office is ready for installation. Waiting for our building committee to place posts. Project expected to be complete before the bishop's arrive in mid-June.

Our Spirit Hub ministry is about to begin, Jean is working with ministry team leaders to gather the names of all volunteers who will be hosting,

VBS is around the corner and Cindy is soliciting volunteers to help with the prep and during VBS (26-29 Jun 6:00 -8:00pm). Cindy will hold prep workshops in the classrooms between now and VBS.

A recommendation was made to have the Scouts de-weed the area under and around their trailers. Fr. Tom will reach out to our Scoutmasters to coordinate this.

A recommendation was made that with new babies and younger children joining us for worship, it was time to seek a second Nurse Monitor to more fully comply with the church's Safeguarding God's Children program. Fr. Tom will reach out to Marcia for recommendations before beginning a parish search.

Decision Items:

With an increase in interest now being paid on our savings account, the Finance Committee recommended we transfer surplus funds from checking to savings. The Vestry concurred. Fr. Tom to provide Corey with written approval to move funds leaving at least 3 months of funding to cover expected and unexpected expenses.

Fr. Tom asked to move \$5,000 from the discretionary fund in support of parish ministries: \$3,000 to the Camp and Mission Scholarship Fund, \$1,000 to the Outreach Miscellaneous Fund, and \$1,000 to the Building Fund.

MO-05-18-03 was made by Fr. Tom to move the requested funds, seconded by Ken Gomeringer, motion passed with unanimous consent.

The purchase of a secure mailbox, discussed during a previous Vestry meeting, following our stolen mail incident, will be made over the next two weeks. A new and more secure post will be installed along with the posts for our new signage. The Vestry concurred with the purchase.

Fr. Tom received a request by our Magdalene Omaha ministry to help support a new summer water bottle ministry being undertaken at Magdalene House. They are in need of an outdoor canopy, weights for the canopy legs, and both a large and medium size cooler. The estimated cost for these items is \$350. Funding would be provided through our Outreach Misc Fund. As part of the discussion, a point was raised how such canopies would be useful for mobile pantries and other parish activities (also to be funded through our Outreach Misc Fund). The Vestry concurred with the request to provide Magdalene Omaha requested equipment, and to purchase 3 additional canopies for use by CHS.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for 15 Jun 23 at 6:30pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of April 30, 2023

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 16,522.00	\$ 17,265.92	\$ 67,680.00	\$ 69,063.67
Other Inc.	\$ 1,842.00	\$ 1,962.50	\$ 11,037.00	\$ 7,850.00
Total Inc	\$ 18,364.00	\$ 19,228.42	\$ 78,717.00	\$ 76,913.67
Expenses	\$ 19,169.98	\$ 19,303.83	\$ 75,318.52	\$ 77,215.33
			\$ 3,398.48	

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!



- June 2** - First Friday Women's Lunch
- June 04** - Trinity Sunday
- June 11** - Finance Committee Meeting - 10:45am
- June 15** - Vestry Meeting - 6:30
- June 18** - Mission Sunday - Bishop's Visit
- June 18 - 23** - Journeys Pilgrimage
- June 24** - Mobile Food Pantry - 10:00am
- June 26- 29** - Vacation Bible School - 6 - 8 pm



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Ministries	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
VPOD	Kristi S	Barb S	Patrick H	Judy D
Hospitality Team 9:30 am <i>Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host</i>	Team 4	Team 1	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	Charlotte A	Kristi S	Charlotte A	Kristi S
LEM Sunday 8:00 am	Doug A	Ken G	Rick S	Doug A
LEM Sunday 9:30 am	Jan S Terri S	Lori E Jennifer W	Vince C Jan S	Jennifer W Michele H
Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch Server 1 Server 2	Isaiah C H Kyper M Ailynn M	Olivia H Vincent C Evelynn C	Isaiah J H Mya S McKenzie Kyper M Vincent C	Kyper M Ailynn M Mya S

Please submit articles for the July 2023 FLAME to the church office by June 19th. 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 April 20th

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org **Email:** holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org

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1305 Thomas Drive
Bellevue, NE 68005-2973
402-291-7732