



The Flame

July 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.



Last month we enjoyed a very blessed Sunday when Bishop Barker conducted his annual parish visit. Celebrating Eucharist, we also welcomed two new members into the household of God with two baptisms, one confirmation, and we welcomed nine individuals who wished to be received into the greater Episcopal Church. We had a really great turnout for the Bishop and as usual, our hospitality teams did an amazing job. At the end of the service, after announcements, our Journeys Pilgrimage Team received a special blessing from the Bishop before heading out.



Fr. Tom's Tidbits



As I write, I am still recovering from our Journey's prayer pilgrimage. What an amazing week we had together. Not only did we enjoy the hospitality of 10 different congregations, and see some interesting sites along the way, but for me, it was truly spiritually refreshing. Watching and listening to our youth pray with joy in their hearts was an experience I wish we all could have been blessed with. I know that they were not always excited about praying for the congregations, let's face it, long drives between churches is not all that fun, but when it came time to pray, there was an energy that just filled both the church and those who were there. Congregations were so thankful for the message of hope our prayers offered.

I got to thinking, when was the last time we felt that kind of energy when we gathered together to pray. The craziness of our week can be just as debilitating as a long car ride; and while we don't always lead the prayers we share, we are invited (like the congregations we visited) not to sit passively as another prays, but to share in the prayers being offered, saying them, either to ourselves, or out loud. Prayer, as our youth experienced, can make a difference. Not only does it lift us up when we're down, it can lift up others as well, restoring and refreshing hope in the love, grace, and mercy prayer brings to the forefront.

In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he reminds Timothy, and those who Timothy serves, that even in the tough times, it is God's will that we not quench the Spirit, that we seek joy in what we experience and where we are, that we give thanks for not only the good times, but the strength God's love gives us when things aren't going well, and to pray without ceasing, for it is in prayer we find joy and can give thanks. I will admit, prayer is not always at the top of my list of things to do. Like everyone, I get distracted, and setting aside time each day is a challenge. Something I have learned to accept over the years, when it comes to prayer, is that some days will be better than others, and on those days I fall short, instead of berating my lack of self-discipline, I remind myself that God knows the prayers I carry with me, and that whether I am intentional in my efforts or not, God hears them, and for that I give thanks.

As we move through the season after Pentecost, listening to the stories we hear each week in Scripture, I encourage each of us, in prayer, to ask God to help us understand how they nurture us; what is it about them that we connect with, assuring us of the love God has for us; and then to do something we often forget to do when we pray, wait for an answer. As our youth learned on pilgrimage, and as I believe Paul taught, it is God's response to prayer that warms the heart and changes the way we see things or the way we feel, allowing us to find joy in the moment, joy we are then able to share with others. Therefore, let us go forth and pray, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Father Tom

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**



The Office will be closing
at 1pm July 3rd.
The Office will be closed July 4th

Parish Life

Parish Cleanup

We want to give a loud shout out to all those who helped us spruce up the place in preparation for the Bishop's visit. Gardens were cleared, signs hung, windows washed, and more. We still have a number of outdoor projects we would like to accomplish. If



you have a little time over the next month or so, and would be willing to lend a hand, please visit with Dean Olander or Chris Darrell.



During our scheduled cleanup, we also added a new church Office & Chapel sign to help visitors and guests find their way, and we installed a new secure mailbox. Some of you may have heard we had checks stolen that sat in the old mailbox overnight. This new mailbox requires a key to gain access and mail dropped into it cannot be retrieved through the opening.

CHS Adopt a Garden

Thanks to Scout Troop 464 who has volunteered to care for the parking lot garden along Thomas Dr. We have four other gardens needing some attention, all of which would greatly appreciate your loving touch. Adopting a garden, you agree to periodically weed or trim as needed. If mulch is needed, you can either purchase it and get reimbursed, or let our Building Committee know and they can help get it so that you can spread it where needed.



You can adopt a garden by stopping by the Spirit Hub and letting us know which garden you are adopting. A signup sheet shows a picture of each garden and has a space where you can list your name. More than one person (or family) can share in the upkeep of any one of the gardens. In fact, working together eases the stress and can be a lot of fun. For more information, please contact Dean Olander or Chris Darrell.

Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training

Last month several of us gathered together to pray and learn about being a Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) and the role LEVs play helping keep out sick and homebound connected. We are pleased to announce that this ministry is officially re-activated, and members of our ministry team will begin reaching out to those we have not seen or visited in a while. Those we visit will have the choice of receiving communion weekly, twice a month, or monthly. LEVs will call ahead to set up a time to visit. If you are unable to attend worship in-person, and do not receive a call in the next few weeks, and would like to have an LEV visit, please call the church office and we will ensure that you are contacted. Thank you to all those who have committed themselves to this ministry. Would you like to know more about how you to can be an LEV? If so, please contact Fr. Tom.



Lay Eucharistic Minister Training

Attention all current Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and those interested in serving as a Lay Reader helping with Communion. Jen Wilson, our LEM Ministry Team Leader, is planning a training session later this summer for current and prospective members. Watch the Weekly Spark for the date and time this training will be offered.



Outreach

Red Cross Blood Drive

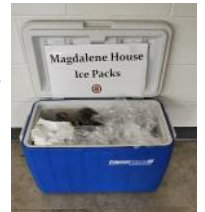


While this event was a bit of short notice, thanks to all our donors, the blood drive was a huge success. Special thanks to Anika for organizing this blood drive and for recruiting volunteers to help throughout the day. Of course the success of this event would not have been possible without all the donors who took time out of their schedule to offer to those in need, the gift of life.



Ice Packs for Magdalene Omaha

On the first Sunday in July, we will bless the collection of ice packs for Magdalene House Omaha. We know that your generosity will be warmly received and that these ice packs will go a long way in serving those in need.



Mobile Pantry



Were we surprised to learn that we were going to be receiving ground beef and milk to distribute during our June Mobile Pantry. Volunteers quickly repackaged the ground beef to make distribution easier (each family received 4-lbs of ground beef). We also enjoyed a break from the sun with our new parish canopies. Our next pantry is planned for Saturday, 26 Aug.

During this pantry we plan to offer our guests toiletry items purchased using a grant received specifically for our food ministry. Thank you to all our volunteers. Please remember, when you see the Facebook notification, share it among friends and family. We never know who might be in need of grocery assistance.



School Supplies for Bellevue Together

Beginning this Sunday (2 Jul) we will be collecting school supplies for Bellevue Together's annual distribution. We will accept items or monetary donations through Sunday, 16 Jul (if submitting a check, please put school supplies in the memo line).



Youth

Escape Room

At the end of May, members of our Journeys Youth Group took on one of the most difficult rooms at the House of Conundrum, and they successfully escaped with time to spare. Not only were they able to find and decipher the hidden clues, they also were very observant in that they quickly unpacked the visual clues the roving nightwatchmen offered. Congratulations.



Registration is closing soon. There are still some openings for youth entering the 4th through 12th grade. Camp begins at Noon on Monday, July 17, and runs through Noon on Friday, July 21 and is held at Calvin Crest in Fremont. More information and registration may be found on DioNeb's Camp Canterbury Webpage: <https://campcanterbury.episcopal-ne.org>. The cost this year is \$275. A \$150 CHS scholarship is available to all parish youth who wish to attend. To learn more about how to receive the scholarship, contact Fr. Tom.

Fun Plex Youth and Family Outing

Last year's youth outing to Fun Plex was such a success, we are doing it again this year. Our planned event will be held on Wednesday (26 Jul) starting at 1pm. Provided we have 20 or more individuals sign up to attend, the group rate is \$25 per person. Our Youth Activities Fund will offer a \$15 scholarship to parish youth 3-18 and a \$10 scholarship to other family members. To receive a scholarship, those wishing to attend must sign up at the Spirit Hub by Sunday (16 Jul). Tickets will be handed out on Sunday (23 Jul). The cost for friends of parish members will be \$25 per person. Please Note: While our event is planned for a specific date, tickets may be used at anytime the park is open. Ticket holders can arrive earlier in the day or if not able to attend, visit the park any other day of the week. Those registered at the Spirit Hub, as of 16 Jun, will be expected to pay the non-scholarship amount.



J2A Staff Meeting

As we prepare for the fall program, members of our Journeys staff will meet to plan out the coming year on Wednesday (19 Jul) beginning at 6:30pm. We are looking for one or two adults who might be interested in helping. If you would like to know more about how you can support this essential youth ministry, please contact any member of our Journeys Staff: Fr. Tom, Lori Stevens, Pam Chisam, Michele Hagen, Kathy Buser, or Marcia Adams.



Youth Pilgrimage

This past month our Journeys Youth group traveled around the diocese on their first pilgrimage since 2013. On this trip, our youth traveled over 1400 miles, spending 28 hours in a vehicle, as they visited 10 different parishes, offering prayers for each community. Those we visited were Our Savior in North Platte, St. Paul's in Ogallala, St. George's in Oshkosh, St. Matthew's in Alliance, St. Francis in Scottsbluff, Grace Church in Chadron, St. Mary's Holly in Rushville, St. John's in



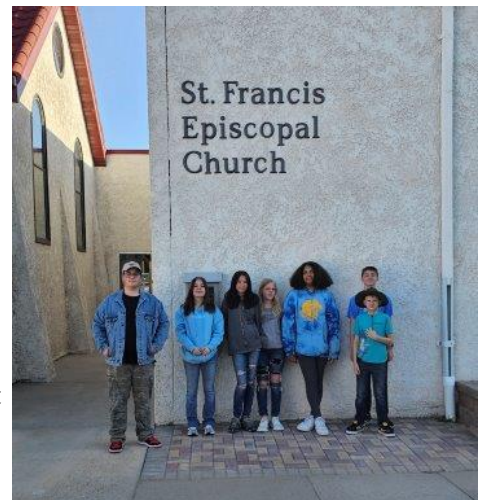
Valentine, St. Mary's in Bassett, and Grace Church in Columbus. At each parish, our team was greeted by members of the parish who gladly shared something about their community, and how they served those in the surrounding area, joining our team in prayer.



While the focus of our pilgrimage was spiritual in nature, we also stopped along the way visiting some fun sites, learning more about the state our diocese serves. Among the places visited were the: Archway Museum in Kearney, The Golden Spike Tower, Carhenge, Scottsbluff (atop which we also celebrated Eucharist), Fort Robinson State Park (where they went horseback riding, swimming, and enjoyed a Church Wagon dinner)



Smith Falls (taking time to swim in the Niobrara River), and Ashfall Fossil Bed. As a side trip we also visited the Crazy Horse Monument and Mt Rushmore.





More Youth Pilgrimage



Vestry Meeting Minutes

15 June 2023

Vestry Members present: Fr. Tom Jones, Judy Darrell, Ken Gomeringer, Leslie Nutting, Barb Smith, Kristi Smith, Lori Erickson, Cindy Pekarek. Also present: Marcia Adams, Treasurer and Carol McLaughlin, Recorder

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

INFORMATION / UPDATES:

Members were briefed on upcoming events.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Marcia presented the financial update. In the Budget vs. Actual report, it was noted that income is up for the month. The expense for Insurance – Liability represents a quarterly payment and the expense for HVAC is the 6-month premium for our maintenance contract. YTD Income exceeds expenses by \$2,866.67. In the CIE report, one thing of note is the \$5746.02 deducted from Rector’s Discretionary Fund. This was approved at last month’s meeting: the money was moved and dispersed between the Outreach Miscellaneous, the Camp and Mission Scholarship, and the Building Funds. The Endowment Fund lost money last month. Summary of Balance Sheet: Net Cash Assets are \$237,688. Total Available Assets are \$660,109. Outstanding checks total \$7,086.92.

M06-15-01: Cindy moved that the reports be accepted as presented. Lori seconded. Unanimous approval.

M06-15-02: Judy moved that we pay the bills. Kristi seconded. Unanimous approval.

Fund expenditures for the month of May were reviewed and given to Jr. Warden to sign:

FUND	EXPENSE	AMOUNT
Building Fund	Cat 5 Cable for cameras	1,600.00
DOK Fund	Chapter Donation	250.00
Funeral Fund	Hedin Funeral	134.91
Vicar of Msn Fund	FDR Mission Trip	48.82
Outreach Misc	Magdalene Omaha donation	250.00
Rector Disc Fund	Funeral Organist	150.00

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Fr. Tom provided an update on the new security camera installation. This is still ongoing as there are changes necessary to the wiring. Alan is taking a look at what is still needed to get them operational.

Santa Ana donations: The donation money is ready to go; the project is approved, we just need to receive actual quotes for the work before we can send the money.

Recertifications for Safeguarding God’s Children: Cindy advised that anyone who may be working with youth in any capacity will need to be recertified. She needs to receive email addresses in order for the diocese to get people registered for the recertification.

Potential new Outreach project: Bomba Sock Donation (one pair donated for every pair purchased) was suggested by a parish member. Since we don’t know much about how this program works, Patrick will look into it and get details for us to review next month.

Arrows to Aerospace Parade: We have not entered a float in this parade for several years, Fr. Tom asked if there was enough interest to resume our participation in the parade this year. Barb presented ideas for simple and effective float designs. If we can find someone in the parish who will step up to coordinate this, and if enough participants will get involved we will proceed with this. The parade is scheduled for August 19.

Sudanese – Location Sharing: The Bishop will have a conference call between us, St. Martha’s and Church of the Resurrection to discuss this. Once some more questions are answered and details provided we can make an informed decision. Whether the Sudanese community would become part of our congregation, or maintain their own membership and service schedule while using this facility is unknown.

VBS: Cindy reported on the number of children attending and said she now has enough volunteer help recruited.

DECISION ITEMS:

Fr. Tom proposed that we switch two events on the August calendar. He wants to move the Parish Picnic to August 13, and move the Sunday School Open House to August 20. Members agreed with this change. The picnic location will again be at Betz Park on Betz Road from 11:00 to 3:00. Judy will arrange to reserve the location with the city of Bellevue. (Post meeting Note: Pavilion has been reserved)

Sundry Items for Mobile Pantry (packets of personal and toiletry items): These were scheduled to be given out at the next mobile pantry, however that pantry already has some special food items to give out (ground beef and milk). Therefore, it was agreed to have the personal item packets distributed at the August pantry instead.

Fr. Tom went around the table for additional items. Judy brought up the schedule for Christmas services, since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. No decisions have been made as to which services the choir and bell choirs will perform, however Fr. Tom does intend to have both morning services on Christmas Eve as well as the usual 3 evening services.

There was no further business. **M06-15-03:** Cindy moved that the meeting adjourn. Patrick seconded. Unanimous approval.

The next regular Vestry meeting will be July 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of May 31, 2023

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 22,290.00	\$ 17,265.92	\$ 89,970.00	\$ 86,329.58
Other Inc.	\$ 724.00	\$ 1,962.50	\$ 11,761.00	\$ 9,812.50
Total Inc	\$ 23,014.00	\$ 19,228.42	\$ 101,731.00	\$ 96,142.08
Expenses	\$ 23,545.81	\$ 19,303.83	\$ 98,864.00	\$ 96,519.17
			\$ 2,866.67	

DON'T GO TO CHURCH,

BE THE CHURCH.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!

- July 03 - Office Closed at 1pm
- July 04 - Office closed for Holiday
- July 07 - First Friday Women's Lunch - noon
- July 09 - Finance Committee Meeting - 11am
- July 11 - Vestry Meeting - 6:30pm
- July 26 - Family Fun Plex - 1:30 - 6:30 pm

LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Ministries	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
VPOD	Judy D	Ken G	Cindy P	Leslie N	Kristi S
Hospitality Team 9:30 am <i>Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host</i>	Team 4	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 3
Spirit Hub	Ali C	Michele H	Jennifer W	Cindy P	Bill F
Recycle Team	Jan S	Marcia A	Lynda W	Karen G	Lynda W
LEM Saturday 5:00	Alberta Y	Kristi S	Charlotte A	Alberta Y	Kristi S
LEM Sunday 8:00 am	Rick S	Doug A	Rick S	Doug A	Rick S
LEM Sunday 9:30 am	Jan S Lori E	Jennifer W Terri S	Michele H Vince C	Lori E Jan S	Terri S Jennifer W
Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch Server 1 Server 2	Vincent C Evelynn C Ailynn M	Evelynn C Mya S McKenzie C	Isaiah C H Kyper M Ailynn M	Olivia H Vincent C Evelynn C	Isaiah J H Mya S Kyper M



Please submit articles for the August 2023 FLAME to the church office by July 20th.
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 July 20th

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

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