



The Flame

September 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.

Parish Picnic

Our annual parish picnic was amazing. While our youth did not get to enjoy the splash pad in Everett Park as planned (due to the rain) we all got to enjoy some wonderfully tasty treats. Special thanks to all who attended, all who brought food to share, and most of all to those who stayed behind to help clean up.



Fr. Tom's Tidbits



It is amazing at how quickly this year has flown by. It is hard to believe summer has come and gone. In just a few months our focus on how hot it is will be replaced with fall, then winter coats. The trees will soon change color and shed their leaves; the green grass will give way to layers of white snow. The good news is that, no sooner will all this happen, we will be looking ahead to the return of nature's beauty revealed each spring. How can we know for sure? We know because along the way, we have witnessed this pattern time and again, and we have learned that it is the way nature has functioned from the beginning. Like us, nature springs to life as the warmth of the sun unleashes stored up energy, and as the warmth begins to fade, it rests and prepares itself for when warmth returns.

Just as we know winter is coming with the change in dropping temperatures, and changing color of the leaves, we know these things also bring to the forefront a change in the church as well. In our gospel readings, we will see a change as Jesus shifts his focus from teaching the masses, to preparing the disciples for what is to come, and for the work they will soon be entrusted with. Soon it will be time for them to take what they have been given and use it to carry on his work of reconciliation in the world. In the parables, Jesus often describes this preparation as a time of harvesting, gathering the fruits of the land, the blessings God has provided, not to store them so we can rest comfortably, but so that they might be used to prepare for what is next.

What is next? In the church year, a very busy six months, during which, Scripture encapsulates the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Like the disciples, Jesus' teaching over the next few months will prepare us for the work entrusted to us. As we enter our own season of preparation, we are reminded that like the disciples, we are not to sit idly taking it in, but actively doing what needs to be done, harvesting from the fruits of our labors, from the blessings God has given, so that we are ready for what is to come.

As a community, what fruits, what blessings do we look to harvest? All things needed to empower us to do what we are called to do, beginning with ourselves. This past season after Pentecost has been one of growing and maturing for each of us. It is time to take what we have become and use it, be it our deepening relationships with God and one another, our awareness of God's love, or our sense of calling to serve our neighbor. Giving of ourselves in this way is not any easier than the giving Jesus asked of and prepared the disciples for. The good news is we are not asked to do this on our own. Jesus said he would be there to help them, and us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the same spirit that binds us together as a community, and that working in and through us, enables us to do more than we could ever imagine.

Father Tom

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Monday (4 Sep) in observance of the federal holiday. Fr Tom can be reached by text or email if needed.



Youth Activities

Sunday School Open House



The Open House for Christian education showcased how well prepared our teachers are! Although we didn't have many Sunday school kids in attendance, many families from the J2A youth group signed up for dinner and horseback riding. We had some adults interested in Education for Ministry as well! All-in-all we had a great morning connecting with the families of CHS.

Journeys Begins

Our Journeys program began the season with great food and lots of excitement as parents and youth alike gathered to hear about what the coming program year will look like. There is a return of those things youth really enjoyed and a few new undertakings as well. Our mentoring team welcomed two new members and thank Michele Hagen (who was leaving us this year as mentor due to changing work commitments) for her years of commitment to our youth.

Journeys meets Wednesday evenings beginning with dinner at 6:30pm. At 7:00pm, youth break into one of three groups: Rite 13 (6-7 graders) mentored by Kathy Buser and Amber Horejs, J2A (8-9 graders) mentored by Pam Chisam and Barb Smith, and YAC (10-12 graders) mentored by Lori Stevens and Fr. Tom. At 8:00pm, our groups come back together for Compline (which is shared live online on our Facebook Page), to clean-up, and enjoy a snack before leaving. Would you like to know how you might help? If so, please contact Fr. Tom. It is never too late for youth in 6th-12th grade to join journeys to share in the fun, food, and fellowship of this ministry. To check us out, just stop by on a Wednesday evening.



Horseback Ride



This month our Youth Group will once again spend an afternoon at the Shady Lane Ranch enjoying a guided trail ride and cooking dinner over a roaring campfire. Our ride is planned for Sunday (10 Sep). To reserve your saddle, stop by the Spirit Hub and sign-up. The cost for parish youth (10-18) who pre-register is \$15. The cost for family and friends who wish to ride, and who pre-register, is \$35. Registration and cancellations (should you need to) will close on Wednesday (6 Sep). Cancellations after 6 Sep will be required to pay the amount of their reservation fee.

Papio Fun Park

On Wednesday (27 Sep), our Journeys youth group invites the youth of the parish (10-18 years of age) to join in a night of fun at the Papio Fun Park in Papillion. We will meet at the Fun Park at 6:30pm and have fun bouncing in the bounce houses, playing laser tag, and miniature golf until 8:15pm. There will be no meal served during this event. Those wishing to purchase snacks or play video games will need to bring their own funds as these items are not included. There is no cost for parish youth (10-18) who pre-register at the Spirit Hub. The cost for family or friends who wish to join in the fun is \$10.



College Care Packages

Attention all college students (and their parents). Once you have your new mailing and email addresses, please send them to the office (holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org) so that we can update our mailing list and so that our chapter of the Daughters of the King can send you a fall and spring care package filled with treats and surprises.



Parish Life

Parish Hall Etiquette

Be quiet.



During the 9:30 service, or when other services are being broadcast in the Parish Hall, the parish hall is to be considered an extension of our worship space. Members who are in the parish hall, during service, are asked to take notice of those around them who are following the worship, providing them with a quiet place to do so. Those who wish to remain in the parish hall during worship, to visit or carry on conversations, we respectfully ask that you take your coffee and snack and sit in the conference room or library. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss them with Fr. Tom, our Senior Warden Ken Gomeringer, our Junior Warden Cindy Pekarek, or our Sunday VPOD (Vestry person of the day). We appreciate your cooperation.

Farewell to Julie and Diego



Last month we said farewell to Julie and Diego, and offered them blessings as they headed out on the next part of their life's journey together. We will miss them both terribly and wish Julie the best as she enters the Navy.



Congratulations Patrick



Last month, Patrick Howell was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Fr. Tom gave the opening invocation at his ceremony and offered a prayer of thanksgiving, acknowledging the work he has done and the increased responsibility he will face in the future.





Arrows to Aerospace

For the first time in six years, CHS entered a float into Bellevue’s Arrows to Aerospace Parade. Thanks to Barb Smith, and host of other volunteers who helped assemble our parade giveaways, who helped put together our float, and who rode or walked with us in the parade, for all they did to help us

spread the word that we are here and still kicking. Over the next few weeks, please watch for and welcome any who may stop by to check us out after receiving one of our giveaways.



LEM Training



As Jennifer Wilson assumes her role as our new Lay Eucharistic Ministry Team Leader, we have seen a renewed interest in this ministry, along with the addition of new members to the team, thanks to her offer of ministry training and updated mentoring program. If you would like to join this ministry, or just learn more about it, please reach out to Jennifer or any current team member.

Team Leader Meeting

There will be a meeting of all Ministry Team Leaders on Saturday (9 Sep) beginning at 10:00am in the parish hall. During this meeting, Team Leaders will meet with Fr. Tom to look over the remaining year’s calendar of events, offer input in the planning for next year, and to discuss how our new shared ministry of hosting at the Spirit Hub is going. Team Leaders are asked to stop by the Spirit Hub and sign up to let us know you (or your representative) will be in attendance. If you cannot make this meeting, please visit with Fr Tom beforehand so your thoughts may be shared with the group.



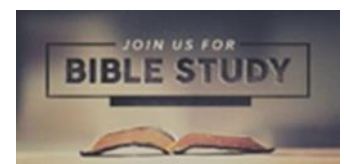
Education for Ministry

There are still a few opening for this year’s Education for Ministry (EfM) program. This four year program focuses on the Old & New Testaments, Church History, and Theology. The class meets Tuesday evenings via Zoom. For more information, please contact Ruth Richter or Cindy Pekarek. Registration will be closing soon, so don’t miss out on this opportunity to delve deeper into the scriptures we read and the faith we profess.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Our Wednesday morning bible study has returned. All are invited to join Fr. Tom at 10:30am on Wednesday mornings for a look at the upcoming Sunday’s lessons. If time allows, why not come early (at 9:30am) and join in our Wednesday morning worship as well.



Wednesday Evening Compline

With the return of our Journeys Program, our youth will once again lead our Wednesday evening service of Compline. They invite everyone to join them, at 8pm on Wednesday evenings, online for this short, yet meaningful, service. You can find us online on our Facebook Page (Church of the Holy Spirit Bellevue) or if you do not have Facebook, by using the link found on the homepage of our website (www.chsepiscopal.org). We would love to have you join us.



Sidewalk Repair



Last month, a contractor, assisting one of our neighbors, drove a forklift over our sidewalk. Unfortunately, there was a void and his forklift put a hole in the sidewalk creating a hazardous situation for those going up and down the street. Needing to fix the damage, we also took advantage of the

opportunity to replace a section of the sidewalk that also needed attention. While we are hoping to recover a portion of the cost from the contractor, if you would like to help replenish the building fund's unexpected expense, simply note building fund in the memo line of your donation.



Holy Land 2024



Registration will open soon for DioNeb's 2024 Holy Land Pilgrimage (7-18 May). Once again, Fr. Tom, and a pilgrimage guide, will lead our team of pilgrimages as we visit the places where Jesus walked and prayed. This trip is open to everyone who wishes to connect more deeply to the stories found in scripture. The cost for this pilgrimage is \$5500 per person, double occupancy, plus travel insurance. While the cost may seem high, it covers all of our expenses, to include airfare, accommodations, and meals. While in the Holy Land, Pilgrims

travel in an air-conditioned bus, with wi-fi and a never ending supply of water bottles, stay in quality hotels, and enjoy tasty cuisine. For more information, please visit with Fr. Tom.

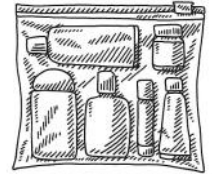


Outreach

Mobile Pantry



Our mobile pantry last month was a huge success. Thank you to all who shared our Facebook Ad, helping us spread the word so that those in need could find assistance. During this pantry, not only did we hand out food, but we also included toiletry items to all who stopped by. Thank you to those who helped bag the items to aid in distribution. Our next pantry is scheduled for Saturday (23 Sep). We would love to have you join us.



Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday (10 Sep), during coffee hour, a team of parishioners will host a pancake breakfast in support of Magdalene Omaha's ministry. While there is no cost to those who join in, a basket for free will offerings will be provided. All funds raised will be given to Magdalene Omaha to support their ministry. Can't make the breakfast and want to contribute? No problem, just note Magdalene in the memo line of your check.



Pet Blessings



Our annual service for the blessing of the animals will be held on Sunday (1 Oct) beginning at 2:00pm. Please stop by the Spirit Hub this month and pick up one or more postcards to share with friends and neighbors; and help us make this year's event our largest to date. Weather permitting, the service will be on the church lawn (bring a chair if you wish) and we will have treats for our guests and their human partners. All pets are welcome. We do ask, for their safety, that they either be on a leash, or in a carrier.

November in the DR



We will once again have a team going to the Dominican Republic, to work again at Santa Ana Mission in Santa Domingo. The dates for this mission are 4-10 November. As in the past, those going will be selling shares of stock in their mission. Help support them by buying one or more shares of stock and then join them for a stockholder's event to hear about the work they did. Would you like to go on this pilgrimage? If so, please contact Fr. Tom. Next year's planned pilgrimage for adults is 13-19 April and Nov, for families 6-12 Jul, and for youth (16-21) 13-19 Jul.



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://trifaiithinitiative-bloom.kindful.com/e/united-we-walk-2023-free-registration->

\$25 Registration with T-Shirt Link

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

Baker's Rewards

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

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.



Members must renew each year. Have You?

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)"

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of July 31, 2023

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 18,461.00	\$ 17,265.92	\$ 118,519.00	\$ 120,861.42
Other Inc.	\$ 1,154.00	\$ 1,962.50	\$ 13,722.75	\$ 13,737.50
Total Inc	\$ 19,615.00	\$ 19,228.42	\$ 132,241.75	\$ 134,598.92
Expenses	\$ 15,609.16	\$ 19,303.83	\$ 131,570.87	\$ 135,126.83
			\$ 670.88	

Vestry Meeting Minutes August 17, 2023

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

The meeting was opened at 6:35 PM with prayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Marcia Adams presented the financials for July.

Budget vs. Actuals report: YTD total operating income is at 98%. In expenses, most everything was within normal limits. Fr. Tom pointed out one item under Administrative; Website expense of \$528 represented a payment for two years, which saves us money over paying annually.

Changes in Equity report: Nothing out of the ordinary. Endowment fund was up this month.

Balance Sheet: Net Cash Assets \$232,013.56. Total Available Assets \$674,209.95. Outstanding Checks: \$1,903.85.

Fr. Tom presented the following Designated Fund Expenditure requests to be signed:

FUND	EXPENSE	AMOUNT
Outreach Misc.	Parade supplies	227.99
Memorial Fund	Funeral Organist	125.00
Camp & Mission Fund	Pilgrimage support	1417.69
Youth Activities	Games for youth group	48.29
Vicar of Msn Fund	Projector	179.00
Computer Fund	Computers (2)	826.01
Building Fund	Office rug padding	39.28
Rector Disc Fund	Parting gift (organist)	250.00
Outreach Misc.	Parade supplies	53.25
Funeral Fund	Funeral flowers	125.00
Funeral Fund	Funeral supplies	55.37

Fr. Tom notified the Vestry of a recent expense approved by the Executive Committee for replacement of some sidewalk sections. Two sections were damaged by a neighbor's contractor's forklift. We also have some additional sections that need to be replaced at the same time; bid for \$1,800 has been received. The contractor will be billed for \$528 of this as their share.

Motion M08-17-01: Barb moved that the reports be accepted as presented. Lori seconded. Approved unanimously. **Motion M08-17-02:** Judy moved that we pay the bills. Leslie seconded. Approved unanimously.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: Scout Isaiah Horejs presented an idea for an Eagle Scout project. He proposes to landscape the circle drive area at the front of the church where the large pine trees were removed. Two trees, which will be provided by the church, will be planted, and surrounded by landscaping consisting of small shrubs and flower annuals. He will also make sure the trees are watered daily for the first month. There was discussion as to placement and types of plants as well as edging and mulch. He also proposes to clean up the ground inside the fenced area, removing volunteer trees that have grown there, then spraying and placing plastic sheeting to prevent further unwanted growth. The vestry approved the project's concept and he will proceed with developing his project proposal and submit the paperwork to Fr. Tom for final Vestry approval.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Fr. Tom went over the calendar events for the next month. The next Mobile Pantry is

August 26, and it will include giving out a bag filled with personal items and toiletries. Volunteers to come early on the day of the pantry to assemble these bags will be appreciated. Also noted was that the office will be closed on September 4 for the Labor Day holiday.

DISCUSSION ITEMS / UPDATES:

Fr. Tom provided an update on the organist search. A new organist has been hired, she will start sometime in October. She will start at \$125 per Sunday during a probationary period, and will then move to \$150.

Cindy advised that the Safeguarding God's Children recertifications are progressing well, almost all have now been recertified.

Barb discussed the float and plans for the Arrows to Aerospace parade this coming weekend. The float assembly will be Friday August 18 at 5 pm.

Leslie updated the Vestry on her search for a provider for an additional stained glass window. She will continue to research this.

Fr. Tom advised that we were not selected as the location for the Sudanese Ministry. They have elected to go to St. Martha's.

Fr. Tom handed out Draft 2 of the 2024 Budget. Right now we are on track to finish out around 99% for total giving. Income growth is projected to be at the 3% level this year. Some areas of change were pointed out. Biggest jump in 2024 will be in Diocesan Asking, going from \$22,101 to \$29,024. This will put us over budget next year. The budgeted estimates for organist and supply musician salaries were explained. Ministry spending is not expected to change much. Right now, we are at about negative \$8,500. This is primarily attributed to the increase in Diocesan Asking.

Christmas Eve Worship schedule: A simple morning service will be offered on Sunday, Christmas Eve morning, at 9:30 am. There will be no 8:00am service. Then the usual three Christmas Eve services will be held at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm. These three will all have Bell Choir and Vocal Choir. Christmas Day will be one service as usual at 10:00 am.

The Red Cross has contacted us to offer a date of February 3 for our next Blood Drive. There are no conflicts with that date at this time, so Carol will confirm with the Red Cross to put us on the schedule.

Judy advised that the gift shop will be putting out all merchandise for clearance to make ready for new merchandise.

DECISION ITEMS:

The sidewalk repair previously discussed during the Treasurer's Report / Fund Disbursement was put to vote.

Motion M08-17-03: Barb moved that we proceed with the sidewalk repair. Cindy seconded. Unanimous approval.

Fr. Tom would like the Vestry's approval to hire a landscape company to provide a solution to the drainage runoff and other problems outside the blue office door. Some landscape companies were proposed for consideration. No one objected to this project.

The resolution for allowing the option to do The Peace at the beginning of services has been finalized. **Motion M08-17-04:** Fr. Tom moved that we now forward this to the legislative committee of the Diocese so that it can be submitted for review and approval at Annual Council. Leslie seconded. Approved unanimously.

Motion M08-17-05: Judy moved that the meeting adjourn. Barb seconded. Approved.

Next scheduled meeting of the Vestry will be September 14, 2023.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!



Sept 4 - Office Closed for Labor Day
Sept 9 - Team Leader Meeting - 10am
Sept 10 - Pancake Breakfast - after both services
Sept 10 - Finance Committee Meeting - 11am
Sept 10 - Youth Group Horse Back Riding - 3pm
Sept 12 - EFM starts **on line only** - 6:15pm
Sept 16- DOK Meeting - 11am
Sept 23 - Mobile Food Pantry - 10 - 11:30am
Sept 27 - Journeys Papio Fun Park



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Ministries	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24
VPOD	Ken G	Cindy P	Leslie N	Kristi S
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	Deanne M	Carol M		Ali C
Altar Bread	Jen W	Jen W	Jen W	Jen W
Recycle Team	Jan S	Marcia A	Lynda W	Karen G
LEM Saturday 5:00 pm	Alberta Y	Kristi S	Charlotte A	Alberta Y
LEM Sunday 8:00 am	Rick S	Doug A	Rick S	Doug A
LEM Sunday 9:30 am	Jan S Terri S	Lori E Jennifer W	Terri S Anika S	Vince C Lori E
Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch	Olivia H Kyper M Ailynn M	Isaiah JH Evelynn C Mya H	Kyper M Ailynn M MacKenzie C	Isaiah CH Olivia H Mya H

*Please submit articles for the
 October 2023 FLAME to the
 church office by September 20th.
 Thank you*



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LABOR DAY



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

Email: holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org

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