



The Flame



JUNE/JULY 2019

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.



Recognition Sunday

Sunday, 12 May, besides being Mother's Day, was also a day of celebration at CHS as we acknowledged the accomplishments of our Sunday school youth and their adult volunteers, our high school and college graduates, our EFM graduates, the award of scouting's God and Country award to three of our parish Cub Scouts, and the award of a \$1,000 parish college scholarship to Daunte Hagen. It was an amazing and blessed morning for all.

FR TOM'S TIDBITS

Here we are, half-way through the calendar year and enjoying a brief respite from the hectic nature of life in our community. July is usually the month many of are traveling on vacation or enjoying the warm weather on the weekends; and as a result, July is also a month when our weekend attendance and giving drops off too. While we plan for this fluctuation financially, there is something we can all do to help reduce the impact this has. Did you know we can sign-up for electronic giving? By doing so, we can either use our credit card (by visiting our website) or have our bank send our pledge automatically to the church each month. To learn more about either of these options, please contact the church office.



July is also the month we begin our preparations for the next year's program kick-off. Teams are busily looking at youth activities, fellowship and formational offerings, possible changes to our greeter, usher, and snack teams, the upcoming annual council support we will provide as hosts, and much more. We are always looking for ideas and volunteers to help bring those ideas to fruition. As we sit on the beach, enjoy the songs of birds in the forest, or sit poolside on our summer journey, let each of us take a moment to pray about how we might strengthen one or more of our ministries, or how we might grow one from the seeds of an idea. Then, let's do more than just think about what or how, let's work together to make things happen. Not sure how to do this? Visit with Fr. Tom, Dcn. Joan, or our Senior Warden – Leslie Nutting, who will be glad to help find where and how our gifts and passions meet a need of the communities both inside and outside the four walls of our parish.

Father Tom



J2A Transitions

Wednesday, 15 May, Journeys celebrated the end of their program year with their annual transitions service. It is always a blessing to watch as our youth progress from childhood to adulthood. As part of our service, we acknowledged Daunte Hagen's completion of our six-year program, celebrated the movement of four youth from our J2A group to YAC, and two youth receiving blessings having completed their time with Rite 13. We also thanked the mentors for their commitment and in Fr. Tom's message we heard how this program began with the energy of Amanda Scarborough and the commitment of Kristi Smith. Without the passion of these two individuals, we would not enjoy the program we have today. Our next program year begins on Wednesday, 11 Sep. If you are entering 6th-12th grade in the coming school year, we invite you to join us on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30pm.

DEACON'S CORNER

The other day, my friend and I were sitting on the back patio, listening to the clink of the ice cubes against the real glass -not plastic- of our iced tea glasses. And she asked, "Plan four months ahead. What are the sounds of summer that you'll miss the most?"

What an interesting question. I'm used to planning ahead for holidays, birthdays, seasons and the like. But thinking about the present moment and pondering what sounds I may not be hearing in four months was kinda new to me.

Here's my immediate reply. I'll miss, I told her, the sound: of voices drifting up from the park as the pick-up basketball and softball games begin to "pick up"; of children playing hopscotch in driveways; of tired cyclists commenting on how this hill wasn't *that* steep on the downhill; the chirp of the crickets, calling for lady friends; the rustling leaves of my favorite cottonwood tree as the breezes blow.

But as I stood on the balcony this morning, at early dawn, clutching a most welcome cup of hot fresh coffee, I knew then and there what I would miss the most. It's those voices that come from the east, west, north and south. The voices of birds singing their special good morning songs to greet the new day. Loud and clear. No hesitation. No false notes. True God-given "Ode to Joy" voices. Four months from now, when the windows are closed up tight, the doors shut, and the birds have moved on, that's what I'll miss.

What sounds of summer will you miss the most four months from now?



Deacon Joan



Facebook

As was noted a few months back, Facebook is changing how organizational pages are seen. From what can be determined, pages (both profit and non-profit) will soon no longer reach the audience they did before without the use of ads. Unless a page is designated by an individual to be seen first, without ads, pages will drift into the background of individual newsfeeds where postings may or may not be seen by those who like a page. Facebook's emphasis for community interaction is shifting from pages to groups. We have a church group that we currently use for internal communication. However, as many have found, items posted in the group cannot be shared with the public due to our privacy settings.

Therefore, we are considering two options to broaden our community interaction using social media. The first is changing the privacy status of our group from closed to open. While this enables us to share more freely, it also means what we share in the group can be seen by all. The second option is creating a second group (with open privacy settings, not closed) in which we share many of the same things we have shared on our Facebook page. This would make it easier for each of us to then share parish news with our friends, family, and neighbors. This would leave our closed group intact (for internal communications) and our Facebook page for promoting events (through paid advertising) such as our food pantries and other events and services open to the community.

We would love to hear your thoughts on which is the best option to adopt (or to learn if there might be a third or fourth option we have not thought of). A drop box will be placed near The Spirit Hub during July for members to let the Vestry know their thoughts and ideas.



PACKING PARTY

Approximately 20 volunteers from different faith traditions and geographic points in the greater Omaha area gathered on Saturday, May 4 at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Omaha to pack more than 100 handmade tote bags full of immediate-need supplies for local survivors of domestic and sexual abuse through the Friends of Tamar New Beginnings Project. The tote bags were packed in less than two hours, proving that “many hands make light work”! Supplies included towel and wash-cloth sets, handmade pillowcases, sleep shirts, toiletries, socks, toilet paper, and a writing pack to contact friends/family. Thank you to those from our parish who joined in the packing effort this time. Keep an eye out in The Flame and the bulletin for information on the next quarterly packing party. For more information on New Beginnings, visit www.thefriendsoftamar.org/new-beginnings-project or The Friends of Tamar Facebook page. To receive a flyer with information about the next packing party, email Deanne McCarrison at dmccarrison@cox.net.



Kim's Graduation

On Saturday, 11 May, our Kim Culp graduated from the Kemper School for Ministry having completed all her academic requirements for ordination. It was a beautiful day with Bishop Barker celebrating the Eucharist. Congratulations to Kim as she prepares for the last leg of her journey to ordination.





How Many Bottles of Water??

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. Matthew 25:35

Sunday, 19 May, the people of CHS answered a request for bottled water for the Youth Emergency Services (YES) Street Outreach teams.

YES does more than provide Emergency Shelter, a Maternity Group Home and a Transitional Living Program for homeless and at-risk youth in the Omaha community. YES doesn't sit and wait for the youth to come to them. YES sends trained outreach workers carrying backpacks filled with basic needs and emergency supplies to hit the streets of Omaha in order to provide immediate relief and help. And that's where we, CHS, helped. Last month we collected and delivered bottles of water for the Street Outreach teams to hand out to homeless and street-dependent youth in our Omaha community.

How many bottles of water did we collect? Way more than the picture shows. We collected over 600 bottles!! Thank you!



Parish Clean Up Day

June 1st, 2019 was Church of The Holy Spirits' second clean-up day. We focused on the general outdoor appearance of our church and grounds. The wonderful people who came began at 9 AM for an intense three hours of pulling weeds, raking, trimming hedges, and general pick up. There are still a few essential tasks that need to be addressed (refreshing the paint on the edge of the steps, etc.) so we had another clean-up day on June 22nd from 8-10 AM. We hope to have one every month during the summer, to keep up on the general appearance of our gardens, hedges and general maintenance. We schedule it early to avoid the heat of the day and for a short period of time so there is time to do your own tasks and family fun. But who said gardening can't be fun? The sense of accomplishment, as you view the efforts of your hard work and effort, is God given.



OneWorld Community Health Center invited CHS to participate in their first annual family event, *GET UP! GET MOVING! Omaha*, held at the Live-stock Exchange Building on June 1.

The event focused not only on the health benefits of exercise, but also on opportunities to learn more about community resources for such areas as physical, dental, educational needs. CHS was invited to share information about the Mobile Food Pantries in the Bellevue area. By the end of the day, Judy Darrell and Dcn Joan had met and chatted with and handed out Pantry Fliers to over 100 folks. The opportunity to share the information with so many people was a blessing indeed.

And when you next see Maria working the OneWorld health screening at our next Mobile Pantry, please stop and thank her for including our pantries in the event.



Rummage Sale

Special thanks to Karen Gray and her team who once again organized and executed a flawless and extremely successful rummage sale. Of course, Karen and her team could not have done so without the many wonderful donations you, the members of CHS, dropped off. We also want to thank our youth group who cooked and served hamburgers and hot dogs for our workers and guests. Their offering of time and talents helped raise money to support scholarships for youth mission and camp.

After the sale, Karen announced that this was the last rummage sale she would be leading. If you might be interested in taking the lead, helping to continue this blessed ministry, please contact Karen Gray or Fr. Tom.



Episcopal Night at the Ballpark

Last month, the six area Episcopal Churches gathered for a night of fun and fellowship at Werner Park to watch the Omaha Storm Chasers play ball. The weather was great, the fireworks that followed the game were amazing, and the best news of all, the Storm Chasers won! It was agreed that we would have to do this again next year.



Pentecost

June 9th was the feast of Pentecost and to help us celebrate, Bishop Barker was here to lead us in worship and to visit with the members of our parish. It is always a joy to have the Bishop visit; and this year, he was able to both confirm and receive new members into the Episcopal Church. Confirmed were Jerry Winchell and Alex Guy; and received were Jan and Van Adams. The Bishop wants to thank those who made a special offering to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Like our parish discretionary fund, the bishop uses these funds to offer support to both congregations and the community.



VBS

Last months' vacation bible school was fantastic. Our theme this year was Parables: Stories from Jesus. Our 15 youth, five adults, and five J2A volunteers sang songs, made and enjoyed snacks, got crafty with our hands, and had a lot of fun being together. Special thanks to Cindy Pekarek and her team, including Judy Darrell, Lisa Weilandt, Sharon Jones, Jean Cook, and Dcn. Joan for their great job of planning, leading, and helping at VBS.



Great Courses

The Everyday Gourmet, rediscovering the lost art of cooking – A.K.A. Kitchen Fun started holding summer classes on June 5th. Since then we've had a total of three classes covering such topics as taste versus flavor, knife skills, the kitchen essentials (pots & pans), and the various methods of cooking using dry heat, moist heat, and combinations of the two. We took a couple weeks off due to surgery & holiday schedules. We resume classes on Wed., July 10th at 6:00 PM.



Werner Park

With the weather finally improving, we had two very successful fundraising nights at Werner Park in June, netting close to \$750 in sales and tips. While the weather has cramped our efforts this season, the fun and fellowship our teams have serving the fans is an important part of why we do this. If you might be interested in helping, see Sharon Jones for details or sign-up at The Spirit Hub.



Annual Council Teams Forming

On Wednesday, 17 Jul, beginning at 6:30pm in the conference room, parish council team leaders will meet to finalize the requirements for support we will offer as hosts of this year's Diocesan Annual Council. Shortly afterwards, we will be inviting volunteers to help with Council registration, worship, and fellowship.

Our registration team will work shifts at the Beardmore Convention Center (Across from Twin Creeks Cinema) Thursday evening and Friday. Our worship team will support services on Thursday and Friday evenings, and our fellowship team will support the dinner following Thursday worship and help prepare the building for Friday's service. To learn more about these teams, heading up the registration team is Vic Culp; the worship team is Michele Hagen, and the fellowship team is Judy Darrell.

Arrows to Aerospace

After much consideration, the vestry has decided that we will not be entering a float in this year's Arrows to Aerospace Parade. With our youth involved in so many school activities, we have found it harder to pull together a float prep team and walkers to hand out parish fliers. While this may disappoint a few in our parish, taking a year off can open the door for others who may wish to take charge of forming a team to showcase our parish. The Vestry wishes to thank Terri Storm who has faithfully and vigorously led our team for the last five years.



Back to School Event is Saturday, July 27 Ingathering Begins July 7 Ends July 14

August 8, 2019 is the first day of school for Bellevue students. Imagine what that day must be like... that's the day students walk into the classroom and meet their teachers and classmates... sometimes for the first time. And each student wants...no matter what they say, to make a good first impression, wearing clean and neat clothes and carrying a backpack with school supplies like notebooks, pencil boxes ...

Bellevue Public School social workers and counselors have identified 316 students whose families have limited income and resources. Students whose families do not have the means to provide the needed school supplies. CHS, along with the other members of Bellevue Together, has the opportunity to help these at-risk students.

On Saturday, July 27, Bellevue Together will hold the annual Back to School Event when the identified students can select their needed school supplies as well as several basic outfits for the year. Outfits that include basic underwear and shoes.

Bellevue Together maintains an amazing inventory of supplies. It shows what they have on hand as well as what is needed for the 316 students. And that's where CHS has stepped up. We've been asked to provide:

- Soft three ring Pencil Case--70 are needed
- One Subject Spiral Notebooks College Ruled--300 are needed
- Pencil Box--20 are needed
- Bottles of white glue--20 are needed

You can help by either donating the supplies or by donating money. Please be sure to designate the money for the Back to School Event.

*But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him,
how does God's love abide in him? 1 John 3:17*





Being There for Our Neighbors

We at CHS are blessed with many opportunities to reach out and share the love of Jesus by serving as his hands, arms and feet in our communities.

These opportunities include:

- Hosting Mobile Food Pantries on July 27, August 24, Sept. 28, Oct 26 and Dec 14
- Moving Veterans Forward, Home Start Baskets in October
- Thanksgiving Baskets for Our Bellevue Neighbors in November
- The Angel Tree in December



Mobile Food Pantry on July 27 Doors open at 10:00 AM

The next Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) will be on Saturday, July 27. CHS is once again blessed to be able to offer our neighbors food assistance. Doors will open at 10:00 A. M. and will remain open until 12:00 A.M. or until the food runs out.

We partner with the Food Bank of the Heartland. Each Pantry makes a big difference in the lives of our neighbors. Volunteers are the hearts, hands and the light of each pantry event. Thank you for providing an environment that is well-organized and respectful to all who enter the doors.

Volunteers who will help with the event are asked to arrive by 8:30 A.M. to help set up. The delivery truck is scheduled to arrive at 9:00 A.M.

Please bring a cart or wagon if you have one. They are invaluable when helping carry out the food items to vehicles.

*Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble.
Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness
around you will be as bright as noon.*
Isaiah 58:10



Kim Culp's Ordination

On Tuesday, 30 Jul, during a service beginning at 7:00 pm, here at Holy Spirit, the Bishop will ordain Kim Culp to the sacred order of Deacons. Please join Kim, her family, and clergy from across the Omaha area, as they celebrate this next step along the journey to her ordination as a priest in the Episcopal Church. We are so glad to see this day arrive; and while this will signal the eventual departure of Kim and her family, as they head off to where God (and the Bishop) is calling her to serve, we cannot be happier for her. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend to show our support for the ministry she is undertaking.

2020 Holy Land Update

The dates are set for the 2020 Holy Land Trip. We will depart Omaha for Israel on Saturday, 13 Nov and return on Sunday 24 Nov. The cost per individual is approximately \$4100. Details on the trip and payment options will be made available once they are finalized. Registration will occur directly with the tour company the Cathedral has enlisted. As with the last trip the Cathedral organized, there will be predeparture meetings to talk about what we will encounter and the different cultures we will interact with. A sign-up sheet is provided at the Spirit Hub for those interested in this trip. Fr. Tom will hold an introductory meeting before the end of the summer and offer a book study during our next program year.

2020 Mission Trips

Watch the August issue of the Flame for updates on Diocesan mission trips for 2020. The goal is to schedule two opportunities for adults to travel to the DR and one for youth 15-19. There will also be a youth trip (for youth 12-18) during the summer. The location for this trip is still under consideration and details will be provided on this and all other trips as they become available. If you would like to know more about mission work, please contact Fr. Tom.

VESTRY MINUTES

June 13, 2019

Members present: Fr. Tom, Leslie Nutting, Blythe Becker, Ken Gomeringer, Linda Blinston, Michele Hagen, Beth Fredrickson (guest).

Fr. Tom opened the meeting with prayer at 6:35pm.

Financial Reports:

- Blythe noted that this month our monthly income was below what was anticipated. However, with the larger prior year giving, we are still above the planned year to date budgeted income. As the summer progresses, she said this surplus will slowly dissipate. As for expenses, Blythe said we had no unusual or unexpected expenses. A brief discussion followed with regards to the boiler maintenance that is currently in progress and members were reminded that every three years we are required to disassemble the boiler for a state inspection. A typographical error was noted on the income and expense report. **MO0613-01:** Michele moved, and Ken seconded, that the reports be approved as submitted. Passed with unanimous vote by those present. **MO0613-02:** Ken motioned, and Linda seconded authorization to pay the bills. Passed with unanimous vote by those present.
- Fr. Tom covered fund expenditures for May
 - \$11.28 - Rector's Discretionary Fund (bottled water)
 - \$48.96 – EFM (graduation certificates)
- Fr. Tom stated the balance on our DioNeb grant remains \$242.34

Old Business

- 2020 Parish retreat: After discussion, the vestry authorized Linda to contact the retreat center and get a cost estimate for the weekend of 24-26 April 2020. The estimated rooms will be based on the list of interested members gathered during February's Annual Parish Meeting.
- Hallway Mat: At last month's meeting, Vestry members were invited to review three company proposals over the last month. Based on quality, colors, and imprinting offered through American Floor Mats, along with the ease of website design, Michele recommended this company even though the estimated cost will be higher than originally planned. The Vestry agreed and decided that the rug should be crimson red, say Welcome at the foyer entrance and contain the parish logo. Michele was asked to get a final price, Fr. Tom would confirm that the funding is available, and the vestry can offer either an electronic vote of approval or finalize at next month's meeting.
- Welcome arrow: After further discussion of Doug's proposals, the vestry agreed on the font to be used and that the color should match as closely as possible the entrance hallway rug. **MO0613-04** Ken moved, and Leslie seconded, approval to purchase the welcome arrow using DioNeb grant funding. Motion passed with unanimous vote by those present.
- Video simulcast project: This project remains on hold awaiting secondary bids.
- Youth Pilgrimage: Fr. Tom noted the pilgrimage planned for June was cancelled due to an insufficient number of youth being able to participate to cover the anticipated trip costs.
- Emergency action checklist: Due to limited prepared inputs on what such a checklist should contain, it was determined that a sub-committee be formed to present a proposal to the Vestry for review. Doug Adams and Lori Erickson will work together to accomplish this by the July meeting.
- Hospitality Teams: A sub-committee was formed to better define restructuring the ministries of our greeters, ushers, and coffee teams into a combined hospitality team. A draft proposal will be presented for discussion at the July meeting with the intent of having a ministry team meeting in August to explore the proposal with those involved and to solicit ideas on how to make it better.

- Building Security: After a brief discussion, while those present feel this is an important issue to address, no consensus could be reached as to how to address the concerns presented. The Vestry has postponed this issue until a sub-committee can be formed to examine the needs and provide recommendations.

New Business:

- Door Signage: Beth Fredrickson presented a proposal to the Vestry for consideration. Her proposal included a decal that could be placed on one of the red doors that highlighted service times, office hours, contact information, and where to enter the building when the red doors are secured. After a discussion on what the content should be, and how it should be formatted, a motion was made by Michele, and seconded by Leslie, to authorize the purchase of a decal for one of the red doors and the glass next to the office door to be paid for out of the DioNeb grant funding. **MO0613-03** passed by unanimous of members present.
 - Rummage Sale: Fr. Tom informed the Vestry that Karen Gray told him that this month's rummage sale was the last she would coordinate. After many years of heading this ministry, Fr. Tom acknowledged and thanked her great, and long-standing contribution to the life of our parish. It is recommended that if this event should continue, the Vestry begin to explore the possibility of finding a new team leader.
 - Annual Council: Fr. Tom briefly reviewed our to-do list for hosting diocesan council. A team leader's meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 17 July, beginning at 6:30pm. Team leaders were encouraged to begin soliciting volunteers from the list gathered during February's Annual Parish Meeting.
- July Vestry: Due to a conflict with our Werner Park fundraiser, next month's vestry meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday, 24 Jul, beginning at 6:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of May 31, 2019

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 13,523.00	\$ 16,071.25	\$ 79,073.00	\$ 80,356.25
Other Inc.	\$ 611.00	\$ 2,687.67	\$ 23,083.00	\$ 13,438.33
Total Inc	\$ 14,134.00	\$ 18,758.93	\$ 102,156.00	\$ 93,794.58
Expenses	\$ 18,795.84	\$ 18,886.25	\$ 92,881.64	\$ 94,431.25



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



Ministries	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
VPOD	Lori E	Lisa W	Terri S	Michele H
Coffee Hosts 8am	TBD Team 4	TBD Team 5	TBD Team 6	TBD Team 1
Greeters Sun 8am 10:30am	Kristin K Toby W Nancy B	Leslie N Dean & Joan O	Kristin K John & Pauline P	Leslie N Gary & Karen G
Ushers 10:30am	Ryan & Casey M	Deanne M Lora C	Gary & Karen G	Chris D Dean O
Altar Guild	Joan W Sharon J Kim C	Toby W Kristi S Charlotte A Janet H	Jan S Linda B Joan M	Sandy V Joan O Leslie N Carol M
Altar Bread	Jan S	Jan S	Jan S	Jan S
LEVs	Joan W	Toby W Charlotte A	Joan W	Jan S Ken G
LEM Sat 5pm	Alberta Y	Cathy J	Charlotte A	Kristi S
8:00am Lessons Prayers	Doug A Ken G	Terri S Rick S	Sue H Jared S	Ken G Doug A
10:30am Lessons Prayers	Vince C Jan S	Jan S Ken G	Jennifer W Terri S	Michele H Jennifer W
Acolytes 10:30am	Bob R Emily W William R	Darius H Isaiah H Vincent C	Daunte H Olivia H Evelyn C	Silas C Kyper M Zoe S

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!

July 2: Richmond Service @ 1:15pm
 July 4/5: Office Closed for Federal holiday
 July 14: Collection for Bellevue Together school supplies
 Finance Committee Meeting @ 9:30am
 July 16: Richmond Service @ 1:15pm
 July 17: Vestry Team Leader Meeting @ 6:30pm
 July 18: Werner Park @ 5:00pm
 July 20: Siena Francis Serving @ 4:30pm
 July 22: Lectionary Group @ 4:30pm
 July 24: Vestry Meeting @ 6:30pm
 July 27: Mobile Food Pantry @ 10am
 July 30: Staff Meeting @ 9:30am
 July 30: Kim Culp Ordination @ 7pm

*Please submit articles for the
 August 2019 FLAME to the
 church office by July 15.
 Thank you*

Like Us!





Regular Services:

Saturday: 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist (chapel)
Sunday: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite 1 (church)
Nursery from 9:30–11:30 am
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (church)
Wednesday: 9:30 am Holy Eucharist / Healing Prayer (chapel)

Education:

Sunday: 9:30 am Sunday School (September-May)
Wednesday: 10:15 am Adult Formation
5:30 pm Adult Formation

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 15.

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