



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

April 2011

Paul's Ponderings

This Month's Happenings

What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? [Jeremiah 2.5]

As part of my Lenten discipline, I've been rereading Jeremiah and I am struck by the tone of the first portion of this prophet's writings. God is angry. Actually, "angry" is too light a word: God is majorly ticked off!

Jeremiah was a prophet of Judah in the period 627-587 BCE, or just before the time of Judah's exile to Babylon. One of his primary concerns — God's concern, actually — was the apostasy and idolatry of the people of Jerusalem and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. After years of settlement and growth, the people had forsaken the worship of God and instead had turned to worship the idols of other religions. And God would have none of it. After all, these were the people God had handpicked to be a "light unto the nations." They were to be holy as God was holy, to follow the ways that led to righteousness, justice, and mercy, as God was righteous, just, and merciful. But they had had enough of God and decided to do their own thing. Their kings made allegiances with other kings, or had fought with other kings so as to increase their boundaries. They relied on the

- Apr 2 Food for Friends, 11 am
- Apr 3 Outreach Mtg., noon
- Apr 6 ECW Mtg., The WOW Zone, noon
- Apr 6 Nursing Home Worship, 3:45 pm
- Apr 9 Men's Group, 8 am
- Apr 10 "Dance" Team Mtg., 130 pm
- Apr 16 Green Team Mtg., 9 am
- Apr 17 Vestry Mtg., noon
- Apr 19 St. Julian's Mtg., 7 pm
- Apr 21 Altar Guild, 9 am
- Apr 24 Easter Vigil, 6 am. breakfast follows
Second service at 10:30 am
- Apr 27-30 ECW Rummage Sale
- Apr 30 Labyrinth Pathway Project

For complete Lenten schedule see p. 7

More Inside...

strength of their armies and their prophets had not been true to what God was saying. They were neglecting the needs of the poor, the widowed, and the orphaned. They were inhospitable to foreigners in their land. In short, they were some messed up nation!

It is difficult for me to imagine an angry, rageful, even vengeful God, but that at least is how Jeremiah viewed the Almighty One. Perhaps rightly so. After all, what parent doesn't from time to time feel just a little tinge of anger when their sweet, innocent young children turn into crazed,

rebellious teenagers? And most parents only have a few children to deal with. God had an entire nation — actually two, because the Northern Kingdom of Israel was also in grave trouble.

Two thousand years later we haven't really learned much. We forsake the One who lovingly created us in the image of Divinity and worship at the altars of our own making: consumerism, wealth, power, security, fame, conspicuous consumption, etc., etc., etc. The list is endless. And the more we grab for these things, the less we pay attention to those who do not have them. Can God be any less frustrated with us than with the people of Judah and Israel so long ago?

One of the things that makes a prophecy a prophecy is not the promise of dire circumstances for those who do not heed the prophet's warning, though this seems to be what most people focus on. No, the true mark of the prophetic word is the offer of hope, of redemption. Even in the midst of the craziness that is human life, even despite our seemingly constant failure to "get it" and our never ending reliance on false gods, there is held out to us the possibility, or rather, the inevitability of salvation. God keeps the promise made to us: we will never be forsaken. As Jeremiah held out that promise to his audience, he reaches across time and offers the promise to us as well.

God is a God of hope, not of despair. God is a God of faith, not fear. Of promise, not forsakenness. Of love and grace and mercy.

Now I ask you: what have our handmade gods done for us lately?

That's what I thought.

Thanks be to God!

Paul+

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 4/02 - Mary Babcock
- 4/02 - Barbara Partridge
- 4/06 - Dale Van Stelten
- 4/08 - Andrew Westberg
- 4/09 - Larry Lageson
- 4/12 - Leah Keller
- 4/15 - Barbara O'Brien
- 4/19 - Anne (Nannie) Clements
- 4/23 - John Paul
- 4/24 - Mike Kolbinger
- 4/24 - Gerry Schneck
- 4/30 - Larry Fowler
- 4/30 - Roger Sheffer

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- 4/11 - Andy & Judy Anderson
- 4/25 - Mike & Jane Kearney
- 4/28 - Jerry & Rochelle Wegman



Thanks to the workers and members of St John's who attended our pancake supper. We made \$827.00. We gave \$200.00 to Echo food shelf and purchased 9 life nets...Jerry W.



St. John's Outreach Committee

Matthew 25:35"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." 40"...Truly I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me."

St. John's Outreach Committee met Sunday, March 6. The meeting was opened with prayer.

ECHO Food Shelf-March Food Share. With the all donations to ECHO being proportionally matched in the month of March, the committee decided to donate \$250 towards our local food shelf.

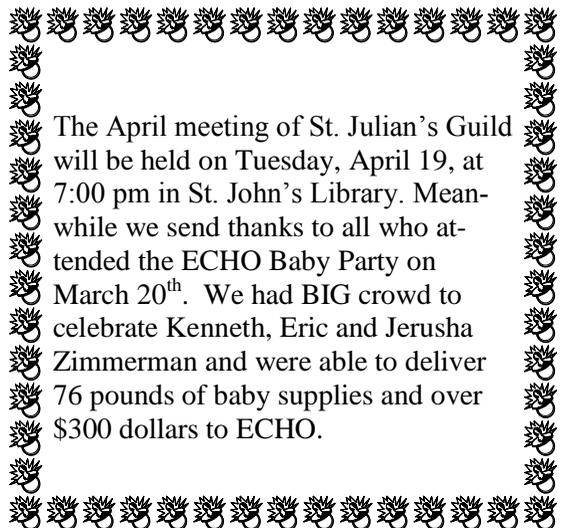


NetsForLife®. As an Episcopal mission, NetsForLife® builds on Minnesota's previous Millennium Development Goal efforts and joins the national church's commitment to combat malaria. This Lenten project encourages all faith communities in Minnesota to meet the goal of donating one net for each Episcopalian in their community. We have put together an informational display downstairs telling about the project. Please feel free to look over the information on the table and wall. Soon, updates will appear in the *Weekly Evangelist* and one pipe cleaner mosquito will be placed in the plastic collection jar for each \$12 received. Thank you

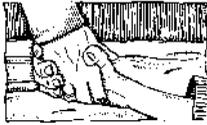
to those of you who have already donated and a thank you to the Men's Group for the seven nets they have contributed.

Habitat for Humanity's "Get on the Beam" Campaign begins on April 25th and ends on May 23rd. This project helps to provide affordable housing in partnership with needy families in the Mankato area. Three homes are under construction at Habitat Park in the Sibley area, with more planned later this season. An eight foot 2 x 4 will be on display. Individuals will be encouraged to make a donation and sign the 2 x 4. Remember donors' names become an actual part of the framework for a Habitat house and each donation helps to provide needed building materials.

The Outreach committee meets the first Sunday of each month. Participation in this committee is open to all members of St. John's. Join us in caring for the needs of others.



The April meeting of St. Julian's Guild will be held on Tuesday, April 19, at 7:00 pm in St. John's Library. Meanwhile we send thanks to all who attended the ECHO Baby Party on March 20th. We had BIG crowd to celebrate Kenneth, Eric and Jerusha Zimmerman and were able to deliver 76 pounds of baby supplies and over \$300 dollars to ECHO.



Nursing Home Ministry

From time to time St. John's is responsible for providing worship to the residents of our area nursing homes. Most of the time, our rector Paul has done these on his own but he'd like to share the joy. And it is such a wonderful joy to be able to share God's Word and to sing and pray with our elderly neighbors!

We are looking for volunteers to assist in this important ministry. No special talent is necessary, but if you play a musical instrument or like to tell stories or read, that'd be great. Volunteer duties may include, but are not limited to: assisting the residents with songbooks, showing hospitality, and encouraging participation among the worshippers.

This ministry involves one hour of your time on a Wednesday afternoon approximately four times per year. Please call the Church Office at 388.1969 or speak to Paul if you would like to be put on this volunteer list. Many elderly are unable to worship in their own church on Sunday. This ministry is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with them! Our next scheduled service is at Oaklawn Nursing Home on 6 April at 345pm.

FOOD FOR FRIENDS

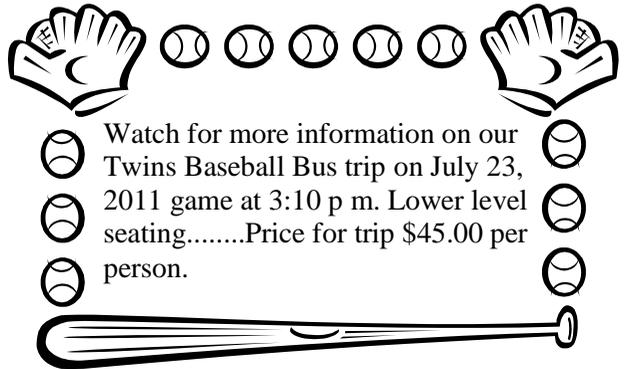
Thank-you so much to everyone who helped with Food for Friends. Through your generous donations of food, money, time, and talent the lives of others and ours are made a little brighter. St. Johns will provide this community service again on July 30th and October 29th, 2011. Join us if you can! (submitted by Audrey Splinter & Nickie VanStelten)

St. John's Dance Team

See what the buzz is all about! Our Dance Team is up and going strong. As we continue to explore ways that we at St. John's can share the Joy of Christ with our community, we can certainly use YOUR input! We've already come up with a few projects — Dance Sessions? — for the year and are eager to bring others on board. Join us for our meetings, the second (2nd) Sunday of each month at 130pm.

12 Steps to a Compassionate Life

Our Adult Class gears up every Sunday at 930am. We are discussing the book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong. You may order this book through Amazon.com or pick it up in the local bookstore, but you do not have to have a book to participate in our discussions. Come join us for what is a meaningful conversation on how we can become more compassionate in our daily lives as individuals and as a society.



Watch for more information on our Twins Baseball Bus trip on July 23, 2011 game at 3:10 p m. Lower level seating.....Price for trip \$45.00 per person.

Graduation the Hard Way!

Congratulations to Kelli Christianson who has been balancing classes, working full time and volunteering at St. John's for the last two years. She has completed her paralegal associate degree from Rasmussen Business College. Way to go, Kelli!



Treasurer's Report March 2011

The total offerings during February were \$14,393 and we transferred \$6,000 from the Capital Account into the General Fund, totaling \$20,393. Our expenses totaled \$19,764. The current balance in the Capital Checking Account is \$20,720 and in the Property Escrow Checking Account is \$38,268. We have paid two insurance policies for either quarterly or semi-annual premiums and had a large snow removal bill for the first two months this year. Respectfully submitted,

Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

ECW
Episcopal Church Women
will meet April 6
noon
WOW ZONE
luncheon meeting
RSVP
387-4396 or
moljam@hickorytech.net

St. John's Episcopal Church

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Easter Sunday ~ April 24

I / We wish to donate \$ _____ for Easter flowers at St. John's.

In Memory ~ In Thanksgiving ~ To Honor (circle one)

Donated by: _____

_____ I plan to bring a plant by April 22.

Donations are requested by

APRIL 17

Please attach this form to your check
and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line
and give to Bill Gray or Ann McGuire.

Thank you!

GODSPELL

We had a wonderful turn out for Godspell auditions!! Everyone who turned up was grand and we'll be using them all—little kids to grandparents and all ages in between!

This is an exciting journey we are about to undertake and we hope you will mark your calendars NOW to save the date and come out to support the creative efforts of St John's brave and talented folks.

Godspell is a delightful and moving musical based on the gospel of St Mathew, filled with lively and beautiful songs, many with lyrics taken directly from the Episcopal Hymnal of 1940. We will perform it in the sanctuary at St. John's on the evenings of May 5, 6 & 7. Exact performance times TBA. See you there as we make a joyful noise!!

Thanks!

Lolly



NEEDED! Parishioners to help feed the cast and crew of the upcoming production GODSPELL. They are going to be rehearsing at the church on four Sundays at 1pm (Mar 27-Apr 17) and it would be great if we could give them lunch between the church service and the rehearsals. Please contact Lolly Foy if you're interested in helping out...chili, lasagna, pizza, peanut butter sandwiches (?), anything would be welcome. Plan on around 18-20 people. This is a chance for all of us who cannot sing or act to help with the production! Lolly's phones:507-720-0279 (H) 704-231-1852 (c)

The Minnesota Valley Chorale presents-A **Regal Repertoire-Mozart, Verdi & More!**

It features Mozart's Coronation Mass and other sacred selections will be performed at **1st Presbyterian Church** 220 E. Hickory-Mankato, MN **Sat. Apr. 16th 7:30 p.m. & Palm Sunday Apr. 17th 3 p.m.** The Chorale will be accompanied by organ, piano and brass. Tickets are available from MVC members, Music Mart, The Lighthouse or at minnesotavalleychorale.com.

A very special offer--mention or bring your church bulletin and get \$5 off your ticket when buy at the door!

GREEN AND GREENER...

How Do We Measure Up?

The Green Committee has been busy finding new ways to care for creation! With this in mind, St. John's has joined the Minnesota Green Congregations Program run by the Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission. Guided by the Commission, the team will work on ways to reduce negative environmental impacts on church property, in our homes, and in our workplaces. The Commission will guide us in evaluating the ways in which we are currently caring for our environment, help us set up new environmental protection goals, and identify specific activities to reach those goals.

There are so many ways we can continue to protect our environment: buildings and grounds, worship, education, community life, and outreach. In the next few weeks we will set up a table in the parish hall which will include more information on the Environmental Stewardship Commission, and how you can join the Green Team in the continuing efforts to "be gentle with the Earth."



MORE ABOUT

THE GREEN TEAM

We've got a very enthusiastic group of individuals and a renewed commitment with the Green Congregations Program. So what is the Green Team up to next? With Earth Day falling on Good Friday this year we thought we would celebrate a little later and really relish the emerging Spring (come rain or come shine).

We are planning a "Connect With the Earth" event for Saturday morning May 14th. There will be a 9:00 – 11:00 am mini-camp at Rasmussen Woods' Elks Nature Center for children organized by Jolly Corley and an adult walk on the Minneopa trails from 9:15 to 10:45 am.

More details will be coming but if you have any questions or ideas for your Green Team you can talk to any of these members: Jerry Stump, Jolly Corley, Kristen Cvancarra, Donna Cassela, Betty Winkworth, Al Berner, Rick Lybeck or Steve Druschel.

ECW's Spring Rummage Sale April 27 - 30

Please "recycle" your gently used clothing, CD's, DVD's, books, toys, shoes, luggage, purses, games, small furniture, and kitchen & household items!!

Wrap securely and put in storage room at the bottom of the stairs.

(please - no exercise equipment)

Questions?

moljam@hickorytech.net

Ann 387-4396

For your convenience...

rummage can be dropped at the door

Wed., April 27 5 - 6:30 pm

Lent Schedule

March 8	5-7pm	Pancake Supper
March 9	Noon	Ashes/
Ash Wednesday	7pm	Holy Eucharist
Every Sunday	8am	Holy Eucharist
Every Tuesday	530pm	Evening Prayer
Every Wednesday	730am	Morning Prayer
	530pm	Stations of the Cross, Soup Supper, Program
Every Thursday	Noon	Brown Bag Retreat
	530pm	Evening Prayer
Every Saturday	430pm	Contemplative Prayer
April 17 Palm Sunday	8am 1030am	Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist
April 21 Maundy Thursday	7pm	Holy Eucharist/ Night Watch
April 22 Good Friday	Noon	Liturgy
	7pm	Stations of the Cross
April 23 Holy Saturday	9am	Liturgy of the Word
April 24 Easter Day	6am	Easter Vigil/
	1030am	Festival Eucharist



St. John's Joins MEESC

The Vestry meeting in regular session on Sunday, February 27th moved to join the Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission and is proceeding with an ad-hoc committee to explore revising the role of the church wardens.

In other business the Vestry: referred a \$2300 request from the Garden Committee to build a handicapped access walkway from the parking lot to the labyrinth to the finance committee, heard requests for additional volunteers for the Sunday youth program, made renewal of the MN DOT Adopt-a-Highway project contingent on recruiting volunteers to do the work, approved loaning some tables for a leukemia fund raiser, and suggested the Green Team look into a possible solar or wind power project since the church has such a good south exposure.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed in these areas:

The Vestry's project to review and modify the roles of the church wardens requires a more robust facilities team to see to it that needed repairs get done. People with boiler licenses, plumbing skills, electrical skills, and a willingness to pitch in to limit expenditures would be especially helpful. Meetings might be quarterly. *See Jr. Warden, Jerry Stump (344-1894), if you are interested.*

Adopt-a-Highway Project – at least 8 volunteers are needed to commit to clean up a 2 mile section of highway before the Vestry commits to renewing the agreement with the MN DOT. Spring and Fall sweeps would take a Saturday morning each. *See , Jerry Stump (344-1894) if you could pick up trash.*

Faithformation Fun

Nursery: We continue to have an average of 5 children 0-2yrs of age in the nursery each week. It is necessary to have 2 people at nursery each week to maintain order (and sanity) for the children and volunteers. Please call Lisa Westberg at 344-0643 if you have questions or sign-up on the sheet outside the nursery door. Thank you!



EpiscoPALS

We have had a few volunteers sign-up to teach EpiscoPALS. We still encourage all those interested to contact Lisa Westberg at 344-0643. Our Sunday School will go through May 22nd (the weekend before Memorial Day weekend). Our curriculum goes through all the basic bible stories in a 2 year rotation with leader guides that give an outline of each weeks lesson with ideas for crafts, reflections and other fun ideas.

Thank you to Jolly Corley and the children of St.Johns for helping the church get ready for Lent by taking down the Alleluia sign.



Welcome to the Vestry, Jill Fischer!

In a farm family of 7 brothers and 3 sisters, she was Jill in the middle and continues to enjoy time with her clan from Wabasso, Minnesota. While Jill has moved extensively, half of her siblings continue to help Dad on the farm and the other half is gathered in the Twin Cities.

From their southwest Minnesota farm, Jill moved to Winona after high school to study psychology, theater and Spanish at St. Mary's. Her next stop was Minneapolis to work six years in the Study Abroad Program at the University of Minnesota. It was there that she met and married John Paul who was obtaining his MFA in Theater.

A five year stay in California was next with Jill working in special make-up effects and even starting a small company in the film industry. The next move was to Orange city, Iowa where 8 year old Liz was born and then to Mankato, birthplace for two and a half year old Lydia. The move to Mankato three and a half years ago brought them close again to older son, Danny, 20, who lives in the Twin Cities

and enabled John Paul to become Scenic Designer for the Theater Department at MSU.

Jill is currently the Study Abroad Advisor at Gustavus Adolphus College and is working on her Masters in Experiential Education with an emphasis on its study abroad aspect. She enjoys Spanish, good film, good books and good conversation and would love the experience of living abroad with her family to study Spanish.

We at St. John's would like to extend a big "thank you" to Jill for making time in her busy life to join the work of the Vestry.



The Labyrinth Lawn—Phase 3

Thanks to memorial monies for the outdoors and gardens we will be constructing a paver pathway to the labyrinth this Spring (hopefully, April 30). The Men's Group has generously agreed to do the labor and Mike Kolbinger will be providing the expertise as we lay pavers that lead 110 feet from the alley handicapped parking spot to the beginning of the labyrinth.

We will also take this opportunity to level the bumpy surface of the soil using dirt from the excavation. When we are finished we should have a more useable area for outdoor gatherings, a lawn that requires less mowing and a handicapped accessible path that invites use of the labyrinth while it lets storm water filter naturally through the soil underneath it.

PRAY for Those Devastated by the Japan Earthquake



Official US Navy Imagery

Following the catastrophic 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that struck off the coast of Sendai, Japan, on March 11, Episcopal

Relief & Development is supporting the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (NSKK; the Anglican Communion in Japan) in its initial response efforts.

The current death toll is over 4,300, but at least 11,000 are feared dead, with approximately 30,000 still missing. Shelters are housing almost a half million who lost homes or were evacuated. Food and fuel are running low in many areas, and severe damage to infrastructure is hampering relief efforts.

Episcopal Relief & Development has been in contact with NSKK leadership and an initial contribution has been sent. The Church in Japan is dealing with an extremely serious situation that is constantly changing, and communications are limited. We will continue providing additional support as the NSKK assesses its needs and

makes longer-term recovery plans. Currently the NSKK is already engaged in organizing relief and volunteer support teams.

The Most Rev. Nathaniel M. Uematsu, Primate of Japan and Bishop of Hokkaido, said, "What we can do right now...is pray. Prayer has power. I hope and request that you pray for the people who are affected, for those who have died and for their families. Pray for the people involved with the rescue efforts, and in particular pray for Tohoku and Kita Kanto dioceses and their priests and parishioners during this time of Lent."

"During this time, it's hard not to feel helpless and want to do more," said Brian Sellers-Petersen, Episcopal Relief & Development's Director of Church Engagement. "Right now, the most helpful thing we can do is pray for those devastated by this terrible tragedy."

If you would like to support the Church in Japan once a response has been developed, please fill out the coupon below and mail it with your check or credit card information. Visit www.er-d.org for updates.

Enclosed is my gift to assist people affected by the Japan earthquake and tsunami.

- \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500
 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other \$ _____



Please make checks payable to
Episcopal Relief & Development.
Mail to P.O. Box 7058
Merrifield VA 22116-7058.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Your email address _____

Name of your church _____ City _____

FOR CREDIT CARD DONATIONS
Please charge my gift to my:

- VISA MasterCard
 AMEX Discover

Account number _____ Expiration date _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

All gifts are tax-deductible.

Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<u>April 3</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren Boulester/Seberson	Mary Yurek, L Peterson, Peter Poulos John Paul, Ginny McNear Nickie VanStelten, Gerry Schneck Westberg
<u>April 10</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Pam Oster, Jaci Lageson Stephen Deeren Wegman	Peter Poulos, J Johnson, Pat Johnson Andrew Westberg, Meg Stump Karl Mundell, Pam Bartholomew Winkworth
<u>April 17</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Leslie Peterson Stephen Deeren M & S Kolbinger	Peter Poulos, Joe Hogan, Elsie Olson Ray Splinter, Bill Gray Joan Hertel, Ann Clark Parsons
<u>April 24</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Easter Vigil Service at 6:00 Breakfast after 6:00 Easter Vigil service	Peter Poulos, Jan Mickelson, Mary Yurek Audrey Splinter, Candace Black Karl Mundell, Nickie VanStelten VanStelten/Dudash

Please do note that we are meeting in the Parish Library five minutes prior to each service of worship for a gathering prayer.

As always, if you are unavailable on your scheduled date, please make your own substitutions and inform the Church Office at stjohns@hickorytech.net no later than the Wednesday prior. That way we can be sure to include the right list of servers in our Weekly Evangelist and we can send the service reminder to the right person! Thanks!

Also: There will be sign-up sheet for Holy Week and Easter Vigil services of worship on the table in the entryway of the church. We really need you to help us out!



Altar Guild in April

8:00 a.m. Judy Anderson

10:30 a.m. Mary Babcock, Audrey Splinter

Monthly meeting Thursday, 4/21/11 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.



SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Praying, Working, Growing, Dancing, in Christ
PO Box 1119
Mankato, MN 56002

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

Corner of Broad and Warren Streets, Mankato, Minnesota

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 10 AM—1 PM

Wednesday, 10 AM—4 PM

Office Phone: 507.388.1969

Rector Study: 507.388.5150

Rector Cell Phone: 612.695.4431

The Reverend Paul Rider, Rector: paulplus@hickorytech.net

Office e-mail: stjohns@hickorytech.net

Web Site: www.stjohnsmankato.com



Articles for *The Chronicle* may be submitted to Betty Winkworth by the 20th of the month. E-mail her at jbwink@charter.net or send articles to 907 Baker Avenue,