



# THE CHRONICLE

**Mankato, Minnesota**

**December 2011**

## *Paul's Ponderings*

### Monthly Happenings

There's a photograph I used to keep near my desk [I don't know where it is now!] which helped to remind me how fun and, indeed, crazy it can be to be a Christian. It shows eight very tired, very wild seminarians outside on a cold snowy December evening.

We all had been studying quite hard for finals week, and late one night, in an act of sheer desperation, decided to don cassock and surplice, hat, coat, and mittens and go outside for a party. With a lit candle in one hand and a suitcase in the other we led a procession through the cloister area of our single student housing and sang hymns of expectation at the top of our lungs: "Come, thou long expected Jesus," "Prepare the way, O Zion," that kind of thing. You see, we were waiting for the parousia, the second coming of Christ. I suppose we were hoping that our "parousia party" would bring about the imminent coming of our Lord, thus forgoing the need to take final exams, much less study for them. What a wild time that was! [And NO! We had had nothing to drink!]

Who among us would not like that sort of thing to occur from time to time? In the face

- Dec. 1 World Aids Day, UCC, 7pm
- Dec. 4 Outreach Mtg., noon
- Dec. 4 Lessons & Carols, 6-8pm, dessert
- Dec. 7 ECW Luncheon, noon, WOW! Zone
- Dec 10 Men's Group, 8 am
- Dec 18 Advent Tea, after 10:30 service
- Dec. 18 Vestry Mtg., noon
- Dec. 20 St. Julian's Dinner , 6pm
- Dec. 21 ECW Cookie Wrap 10am-noon
- Dec. 21 Oaklawn Nursing Home Service, 3:45
- Dec. 22 Altar Guild Mtg., 9 am

### **Special Worship for Advent & Christmas**

Advent Festival—4 December, 6pm, followed by dessert served by the Vestry

Christmas Eve—5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist and Children's Program

11pm Christmas Worship & Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day—9am Worship & Holy Eucharist

of some dire circumstance, say, the arrival of in-laws, or the revealing of some horrible truth about ourselves, or the prospect of taking some test for which we feel ill prepared, who hasn't

had the glimmer of hope that the rapture would come and sweep us away? What a great way to solve all our problems.

Alas, it is not that easy, is it? For one thing, there really is no such thing as “The Rapture.” it is a human invention. For another, we all must eventually face up to the fact that we are indeed responsible for all of our actions [or inactions]. We simply cannot escape the inevitability of human free-will and its consequences. But mainly, isn't it the very problems we encounter, situations we face, circumstances in which we find ourselves that build our character, that make us the kind of person we are meant to be? We wouldn't really want to circumvent that process of self becoming self, would we?

This may sound really quite odd, but I always look to this time of year as a reminder that, even if I cannot escape the responsibilities of life, I believe in a God who walks with me every step of the way. I may fall—I often do—but God is there to pick me up, dust me off, and send me forth yet again.

My prayer for us all this Adventide is that we be filled with the joy of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ, who journeys the way with each of us.

Thanks be to God!



The Rev'd Paul G. Rider, Rector  
St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church  
Mankato, MN  
507.388.1969  
507.388.5150  
Check out my blog at  
<http://www.thesmilingheretic.com>



#### BIRTHDAYS:

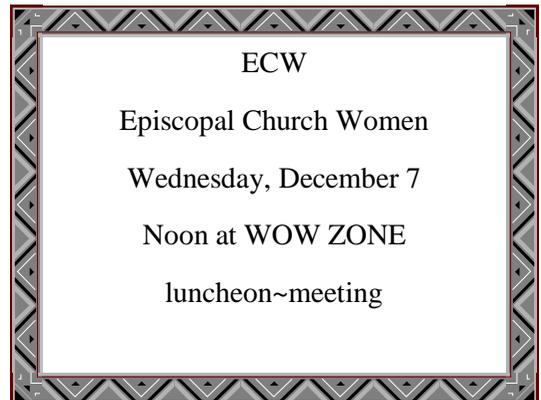
December 01 - Pam Oster  
02 - Betty Winkworth  
03 - Dexten Canavin  
06 - Elizabeth Paul  
07 - Gary Hudson  
19 - Victoria Campbell  
21 - Michelle Mundell  
23 - Joan Hertel  
24 - Nancy Zwickey  
28 - Landon Smith

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

December 14 - Chris & Tina Hudson  
26 - Mike & Sue Kolbinger  
30 - Dale & Nickie VanStelten



Fun had by all at St John's 1st men's night out. Great turn out for food, drink, golf and bowling. Thanks to all! The Men's Group





## TREASURER'S REPORT

The offerings for October were \$14,327 and I transferred \$6,200 from the Capital Investment account into the General Fund to help cover the balance of September's bills and October's bills. October's expenses totaled \$18,403.

The balances in our checking accounts as of Oct. 31 were as follows: General Fund \$1134, Capital Investment checking \$5304 and Property Escrow checking \$18,606. We received our 3rd quarter report from the Pooled Investment Fund and like everybody else, we saw a decline in our investments. Our balance as of September 30th was \$228,952.

Thank you again for keeping up with your pledges. The Finance Committee is continuing to work on the 2012 Budget and it will be presented to the Vestry for their consideration on Sunday, Nov. 27.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer



Coming soon....

WATCH FOR THE 2012

ALTAR FLOWER

CALENDAR IN

THE STAIRWAY



## Shout Outs!

Congratulations to Pam Bartholomew in her new position as Housing Director for the Benedictine Living Community of St. Peter. The center opened this fall with 40 independent and assisted living apartments for those 65 or older. Pam is pleased with the steady addition of new residents and the excellent culinary services.

*If you get a new job or retire or cross a milestone at school or work, let us know. We'd like to share the good news!*

*E-mail Betty Winkworth at [jbwink@charter.net](mailto:jbwink@charter.net), or call 387-7170.*

ECW

COOKIE WRAP

WED., DEC. 21

10 AM - Noon

We will meet at St. John's.

Please bring 2 doz. cookies.

Lunch will be served.

RSVP [moljam@hickorytech.net](mailto:moljam@hickorytech.net)

387-4396



## Just in Time for Christmas

Be sure to check out the Fair Trade Table in the Parish Hall when you are thinking of Christmas baskets or stocking stuffers.

We have some new items and more of the ones we usually carry, with pricing well below what you'll find in retail stores:

- \$ 7 per pound Fellowship Blend ground coffee, decaf and regular
- An assortment of 6 different Organic teas at \$3 a box
- **NEW**--\$ 7 for 1 pound bags of Organic whole bean coffee, medium French Roast
- **NEW**-- \$5 for 12 oz. can of Hot Cocoa Mix
- The **BIG** (3.5 oz.) Organic chocolate bars for just \$3 in these flavors:
  - 1.**NEW**--Milk chocolate with a hint of Hazelnut
  - 2.**NEW**--Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt
  - 3.Orange Dark Chocolate
  - 4.Dark Mint with a delicate crunch
- And tasty Fair Trade dried Cranberries for \$4 a bag.

## Tenth Annual Advent Festival

Sunday, 4 December: This will mark the 10th year that our sanctuary will echo with the sights and sounds of An Advent Festival. Intended as a preparation for the Christmas celebration, this order of worship intersperses scripture readings foretelling the birth of the Savior with musical selections intended to invoke a sense of awe and wonder of God's gracious gift of Love and Hope.

Much of the music for this service has been specially written by our two "resident" composers, Jim McGuire and Roger Sheffer.

Join us at 6pm on December 4 for this beautiful and evocative service and stick around afterwards for dessert served by St. John's Vestry!



## Coffee Hour Hosts for 10:30 Service

The schedule will be included on the "Lay Ministry Schedule" usually on the last page of the Chronicle each month as well as posted in the fellowship hall. If you are not included on the schedule and would like to be, please let me know. If changes need to be made please make every effort to find your own substitutes and just let me know.



Thank-you all so much for your wonderful service in hosting coffee hour in the past and in the future. We love our fellowship time!

*Submitted by Audrey Splinter (720-1155)  
rsplin@hickorytech.com*

## 2012 COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

(10:30 SERVICE)

If you are unable to serve your scheduled Sunday, please find your own substitutes. Notify Audrey Splinter (243-3505) or (rsplin@hickorytech.net) of any changes. **THANK-YOU !!!**

Jan: 1 Stump  
8 Splinter  
15 Weber  
22 Westberg  
29 **Potluck/ Annual Meeting\***

Feb: 5 Winkworth  
12 Zimmerman  
19 Lybeck  
26 McNear/Hertel

Mar: 4 Braveheart  
11 Canavin  
18 Corley  
25 Dobratz/Olson

Apr: 1 McGuire  
8 VanStelten/Dudash **EASTER**  
15 Druschel  
22 Hogan  
29 Hudsons, Gary/Chris

May: 6 Johnson  
13 May/Larson  
**End of Sunday School/Adult Ed.\***  
20 Yurek  
27 Mackie

June: 3 Means  
9am 10 Cvancara  
17 Rozeboom/Fowler  
24 Clark

July 1 Peterson/Seberson  
9am 8 Paul/Fischer  
15 Berner  
22 Deeren/Boulster  
29 Lagerson/Oster

Aug: 5 Manderfelds, Missy/Mark  
9am 12 Partridge  
19 Kolbingers/Mike,Oscar  
26 Wegman

Sept: 2 Zwickey/Steil  
10:30am 9 **Potluck/Start of Sunday School/  
Adult Ed.\***  
16 Reeve/Mickleison  
23 Robbins/Black  
30 Schneck

Oct: 7 Schultz/Clements  
14 Splinter  
21 Stump  
28 VanStelten/Dudash

Nov: 4 Weber  
11 Westberg  
18 Winkworth  
25 Zimmerman

Dec: 2 Lybeck  
9 McNear/Hertel  
16 Braveheart  
23 **Advent Tea\***  
30 Canavin

*\*Date subject to change.*





### St. John's Outreach Committee

Mission: To support Christ's mission in the local, national, and international communities.

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*

St. John's Outreach Committee met Sunday, November 6 and opened with prayer. After reviewing the requests for donations we settled on contributing to three different non-profit organizations.

**ECHO Food Shelf.** After discussing how much our local community needs food, especially around Thanksgiving and Christmas, it was decided to donate \$100.

**Feeding America.** Feeding America, the nation's leading hunger-relief charity states on their website that in December 2010 1 in 6 Americans live in households that are food insecure. The situation has not improved since then. The letter from Feeding America stated that \$50 would provide 400 Second Harvest meals, and we know that Second Harvest distributes food to food shelves, ECHO being one of them. We donated \$75.

**CARE.** CARE emphasizes community-based efforts to improve basic education, prevent the spread of disease, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources and also delivers emergency aid. Each meal that CARE provides costs 31 cents. With our donation of \$75, we are providing at least 242 meals.

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.

**YOU ARE INVITED**

WHAT: Sit down dinner/order from the menu

WHEN: December twenty, 2011  
Six o'clock P.M

WHERE: Mankato Golf Club

WHY: To celebrate the season together

Please RSVP, we need a count for the Golf Club.

[janroze@hickorytech.net](mailto:janroze@hickorytech.net)

### Millennium Development Goals

Be sure to check your Evangelist on Dec. 11 and 18 to vote (once) for the cause you would like to support to help alleviate global poverty.

**Your Vote Counts!**

## St. John's Vestry Meeting 11/27/2011

### Vestry Wrestles with 2012 Budget

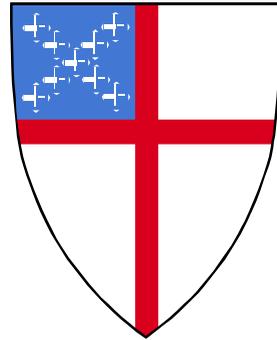
A review of current financial statements and a first review of the draft 2012 church budget headlined the November 27<sup>th</sup> Vestry meeting. Members heard that the church finished October with about \$1100 in the general fund, a substantial monthly shortfall, and only about \$5300 left in the capital fund to offset any cash flow short falls for the balance of the year. Treasurer Nickie VanStelten reported that November cash flow looks much better. More than \$21,000 has been transferred from the capital fund this year to cover cash requirements.

Van Stelten led members through a line item review of the financial committee's first draft 2012 budget whose expense outstrips projected income by \$21,000 at this stage. The final draft is expected to trim expenses somewhat. Though pledges in hand are up about 10% over last year, about a half dozen pledge units have been lost, and only about 30% remain outstanding.

The pooled investment fund took a hit in the third quarter of this year and the standing balance has fallen to \$228,953 losing about \$24,000 YTD. Memorial income from a recent life insurance bequeath offers a possible resource to fill the income-expense gap for the coming year.

After wrestling with the budget realities, positive feedback focused on the successful Sunday School curriculum and the not too distant need to expand the youth program to accommodate young people in the parish as they age.

Some discussion focused on nuts and bolts planning for the Advent Festival and the desserts to follow the 6 PM performance on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.



### The Riverside Regional Pet Shelter

"BENCHS" 2012 calendars are now available. Each month features a former or current shelter resident along with its history. All time and materials (including the printing of the calendars) have been donated by local organizations which channels 100% of all sales into the shelter's operating expenses.

A BENCHS calendar would make a **"PAWSOME"** Christmas gift and homeless dogs and cats would receive a well-deserved gift, as well. The cost is \$15 each. Please call Rochelle Wegman 345-8089 or email her at [rawegman@hickorytech.net](mailto:rawegman@hickorytech.net) to place your order.





### **Christmas Flowers**

St. John's will be decorated with red poinsettia plants for Christmas. Donations may be given to St. John's (memo line: *Christmas Flowers*) in memory of loved ones. Please complete the form below, attach your check, and give to Ann McGuire no later than Dec. 18. It may also be turned in during offertory or mailed to St. John's treasurer.

If you wish to *bring* a plant to church, please indicate that on the form.

Plants should be at church no later than 10 AM, Thurs., Dec. 22.

Thank you,

Ann McGuire

Flower Chair

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### **Christmas Flowers Donation Form**

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount : \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

*I plan to bring a plant (s) to St. John's \_\_\_\_\_*



### "A View from the West Bank during the Arab Spring"

What is it like to live in a contested and often violent land? Through photographs, stories, and a few obligatory but brief history lectures, Chris Corley will describe his experiences during an educational seminar to the West Bank in May 2011. Corley joined nine other American professors on a ten-day faculty development seminar sponsored by the Palestinian American Research Council. The group travelled to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Hebron, and Jericho, and toured universities, villages, and two refugee camps. They heard the stories of community leaders, intellectuals, and Palestinians of diverse faiths, ages, and social class.

Participants might be interested in reading Sandy Tolan's, [The Lemon Tree](#), while learning about Corley's visit. Members of Grace Lutheran Church recently read the book before inviting Chris to speak to their congregation in October. The class will run most weekends between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and, as usual, it can stretch out a few weeks beyond if participants would like.

### During a Sabbatical...

The Sabbatical Grant group and Fr. Paul met in November to continue with the plans that we proposed in the grant application. Now that we've received the grant, we need to plan a variety of activities, pulpit supply, and especially the opportunities for us to have our own pilgrimage here in Mankato, while Fr Paul travels in the British Isles. We are meeting again in December and will have more information to share after the first of the year.

If you would like to host a book group in your home, join a labyrinth walkers group or take on a leadership role in Evening Prayer or Weekly Bible Study, please let us know. This is an exciting time as we prepare for our growth and exploration of God's presence during this Sabbatical.



### Annual Meeting 2012

Believe it or not, we're getting ready for our 2012 Annual Parish Meeting! Held on the final Sunday in January—which, this next year, is on the 29th—the purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect Vestry and Wardens for the coming year, review and approve an operating budget for the year and take a look at the year gone by. All Parish organizations are encouraged to present a written report (preferably in MS Office format). Please send these electronically by January 10 to the Church Office at [stjohns@hickorytech.net](mailto:stjohns@hickorytech.net). If your organization handles funds of any kind, a financial report is also required. If you've any questions, please contact Senior Warden Jaci Lageson at 625.9331.



## Sunday School

In the beginning of November, thirteen teachers/parents got together to

brainstorm about Sunday School at St.

John's. We had a great time and many fabulous ideas came forth. Here are the highlights:

● **Beginning in January, our Sunday School will be at 9:30-10:30.** This was done for a variety of reasons, but most notably it allows the

older children to take part of worship by being acolytes and children can be with their families during the service.

● We are still in need of nursery volunteers. It is best if we could have a consistent person to help diminish the fears of the toddlers at being left in the hands of a "stranger."

● We will have a bulletin board with all Sunday School announcements, teacher's schedules, and class art work on the board between the youth room and the vestry room.

● Those students that are in the 3rd grade and older are invited to become acolytes. Please contact Chris Corley (386-1602) if you are interested.

● Those students that are ready for First Communion should contact Father Paul. There will be a meeting to prepare the children and families for this event.

● Christmas is coming!! We need a volunteer for someone to help coordinate a small children's program for the Children's Christmas program. Please contact Lisa Westberg (344-0643) if able to help.

● Children's bulletins and art kits (blue cloth books) are available at the back of the church or on the narthex for children to use during the service.

I hope all of the children are enjoying their time in Sunday School, learning God's word and able

to apply it to daily living. Thank you again for all the volunteers that make this possible!!

Lisa Westberg

## December Leader's Schedule with Grade Levels

**Dec 4** - Pre K: Meg. Stump & Sarah May;  
K-2: Jolly Corley & Dustin Cvancara ;  
3-5: Jill Fischer & Rochelle Wegman

**Dec 11** – Pre K: Lisa Westberg & Paul Mackie ; K-2: Audrey Splinter & Meg Stump;  
3-5: Amanda Mackie & Sara Braveheart

**Dec 18** – Pre-K: Jackie Means ; K-2: Meg Stump ; 3-5: Andrew & Eric Westberg

**Dec 25** – No Sunday School



St. John's

**Advent Tea**

**Sun., Dec. 18**

after 10:30 service

in the Parish Hall

Please bring your favorite  
hors d'oeuvre, holiday treat,  
or "finger-food" to share.

# Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<b><u>December 4</u></b> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Jaci Lageson Stephen Deeren Seberson	Barb Hogan, Joe Hogan, Peter Poulos Audrey Splinter, Ginny McNear Gerry Schneck, Joan Hertel Olson, Elsie/Cindy
<b><u>December 11</u></b> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Margo Druschel, Steve Druschel Stephen Deeren Duncanson	Peter Poulos, Candace Black, Leslie Peterson Ray Splinter, Meg Stump Karl Mundell, Nickie VanStelten Schneck
<b><u>December 18</u></b> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Leslie Peterson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren	Peter Poulos, Mary Yurek, Jan Mickelson Candace Black, Andrew Westberg Pam Bartholomew, Ann Clark Advent Tea
<b><u>December 25</u></b> Greeters (2) Lectors (2) LEM (2)	9:00 AM SERVICE  We will need 2 Lectors, 2 LEMs, and 2 Greeters for our Christmas Day Service on 25 December at 9am. Please email the Parish Office at <a href="mailto:stjohns@hickorytech.net">stjohns@hickorytech.net</a> if you are available to serve	

**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](mailto: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!



## Altar Guild in December

8:00 a.m. Judy Anderson  
 10:30 a.m. Ann McGuire, Audrey Splinter  
 Monthly meeting Thursday, 12/22/11 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,