



# THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

August 2010

## Paul's Ponderings

## Happenings

(Note: the following is a "requested repeat" of an earlier Ponderings from several years ago.)

"If religion be a function by which either God's cause or man's (sic) cause is to be really advanced, then he who lives the life of it, however narrowly, is a better servant than he who merely knows about it, however much. Knowledge about life is one thing; effective occupation of a place in life, with its dynamic currents passing through your being, is another." (*William James in The Varieties of Religious Experience, pg. 370*)

One can know about God. But, unless one interacts with God, through prayer, study, mission, and good works, and all within the context of a worshiping community of faith, that knowledge cannot save. For instance, I can know something about the game of baseball - the rules, strategy, hitting, pitching, etc. - but this knowledge does not make me a baseball player. No amount of watching baseball - even the Twins! - can teach me how to *play* the game. Only by actively participating in the sport can I really *know* what the game is like.

Some of you may balk at my assertion that

August 1	Outreach Mtg. after service
August 8	Mass in the Grass, 10 am
August 12	Fair Trade Film, 7:15 pm
August 14	Men's Group, 8 am
August 26	Altar Guild, 9 am
Sept. 1	ECW Mtg. Luncheon, noon
Sept. 5	Outreach Mtg., after service
Sept. 5	Walk-Bike-Carpool to Church
Sept. 11	Men's Group, 8 am
Sept. 11	Pridefest
Sept. 12	Fall Kick-off, 8 and 10:30 services, Sunday School 9:30

*More Inside...*

interaction with God can only take place within the context of a worshiping community of faith. You say, "I can worship God while being in nature - out on my fishing boat, or tending my garden." I reply, "Of course you can. Remember St. Paul's admonition to the church in Thessalonika to 'pray without ceasing'? You can indeed pray anywhere." But prayer cannot be just an individual expression of piety, it must be incor-

porated into the wider context of communal worship.

Let's get back to baseball: I can practice how to hit a ball on my own. I just throw the ball in the air and swing the bat, hoping the one will come in contact with the other. But, unless I have someone to retrieve the balls, I'll get mighty tired getting them myself (or, I'll get mighty poor buying a bunch of balls!). The same goes for learning how to pitch, or throw, or field balls, etc. Eventually I will need other people around to help me in my practice.

The same is true for living a life of faith. I can pray by myself all I want, indeed I do. But I need a community of faith to help me form my prayer into a life of active faith. I can worship God in a broom closet, but I need to open that closet and let the air and light in or I'll suffocate. Faith communities keep people from suffocating.

Interaction with God also comes about through studying and living God's Word, reaching out to others - mission - and working to build up God's reign on earth. Again, all these take place most effectively in the context of a worshipping community.

Unfortunately, the pressures of our society often mitigate against one living a life of faith. Active engagement in pursuing Godly things is frowned upon by a world which places value on things that pass away - money, prestige, power, accumulation of goods, etc. There is precious little place for people whose values lie in things eternal - God. This is another reason why community is so very important. Communities of faith help individuals to value the things of God. They serve to give the individual a context in which to face the deeper questions of faith and



### **Birthdays:**

- August 3 - Andy Anderson
- 3 - Joe Hogan
- 6 - Candace Black
- 12 - Helen Hudson
- 12 - The Rev'd Paul Rider
- 14 - Audrey Splinter
- 16 - Melissa Hagggar-Olson
- 22 - Steve Penkhus
- 25 - The Rev'd Richard (Lou) Gerard
- 27 - Phyllis Brine
- 27 - Rick Robbins
- 29 - Ray Splinter

### **Anniversaries:**

- August 4 - Joe and Marge Britton
- 6 - Andrew and Lisa Westberg
- 15 - Will and Barb Partridge
- 16 - Cliff and Ellie Canavin
- 19 - Lowell and Bobbi Hovren
- 24 - Al and Mary Berner

to live that faith in a hostile world. In addition, faith communities help and support families in making the kinds of decisions necessary to raise children in an environment which places value on *who* people are, not on what they can do or possess.

Our Lord desires that each of us come to the saving faith of Jesus Christ. God has given us a community in which this faith can grow and bear fruit. Let us *together* - with God's help - strive to build up the Reign of God in this place that others may come to an active life of faith and service in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul +". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

## 2010 Annual Mankato Pridefest is

**Saturday, September 11**

Pride Fest is scheduled for Saturday, September 11, kicking off with the parade in the morning with the Pride Fest taking place from noon to 6 pm at Sibley Park, near the zoo.

We plan to have a St. John's contingent walking in the parade and a booth at the Pride Fest. Anyone who is interested helping plan the St. John's booth and activities, please contact Meg Stump at 507-344-1894 or with a message to [megstump@charter.net](mailto:megstump@charter.net). We will only have one or two face to face meetings with follow-up by email.

If you don't particularly want to be involved with the planning committee, you will still have an opportunity to represent St. John's at the parade and festival. There will be information and sign-up sheet closer to September 11.

Thanks for everyone's help over the past several years. It has been that effort of so many that has allowed us to stand up and state our support for people who have often been led to believe that Christian churches are all against them.

Meg Stump

### **Earth Day Pledge Revisited**

We had some very thoughtful pledges last April for the 40<sup>th</sup> Earth Day celebration. Several of you pledged to walk, bike or carpool more and we thought it was such a good idea that we have planned an event for St. John's.

We've selected Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> as our Walk-Bike-Carpool to Church day. Our goal is to see how few cars there are in the parking lot compared to how many people in the pews.

Join the fun! Your Green Committee



### TREASURER'S REPORT JUNE 2010

Our total offerings for the month of June were \$12,651 and we also received our quarterly distribution from the Pooled Investment Fund of \$1,994, giving us a total income of \$14,645 in the General Fund. Our total expenses were \$14,562. We received offerings of \$1,060 for the Capital Investment Fund and transferred \$700 out of this account into the Pooled Investment Fund (Memorial funds). We also have temporarily deposited the funds that will be transferred into the new Escrow Account when it is opened; these funds total \$18,000. Thus the balance in the Capital Account is \$52,858.

Respectfully submitted,

Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

### **ECW**

Episcopal Church Women

Wed., Sept. 1 ~ noon

luncheon meeting

Mankato Golf Club

RSVP

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

387-4396



## 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."*

In June, the committee met on Sunday, June 6th after the service. It was noted that the United Thank Offering this year totaled \$169.15. We donated \$150 to the Salvation Army's summer food program and \$100 to our local Red Cross. In June we received a Thank You from Habitat for Humanity for the money we raised on the "beam." St. John's members donated \$205.22 this year!

In July, the committee chose not to meet July 4th. Instead we met on July 11th after the service. We donated \$100 for the Bowl-A-Thon supporting the creation of a Drop-In Shelter for In-Crisis Youth in Mankato, \$75 to Theresa House, and \$75 to Oxfam.

Oxfam is an international confederation that believes that everyone should have the right to:

- A Livelihood-By arguing for better working conditions and better protection of the natural resources on which poor communities depend, campaigning for fairer trade rules at the global level, for better policies

at the national level, with a strong focus on women.

- Basic Services-By working for more and better aid, with a focus on basic services.
- Be safe from Harm-By providing shelter, clean water and sanitation during emergencies and helping communities to rebuild.
- Be Heard-By supporting partners and communities to understand their rights and to speak out.
- Be Treated As Equal- In access to jobs, essential services and influence.

The Outreach committee meets the first Sunday of each month immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Please join us!



## BACK TO SCHOOL

For some children September means the thrill of a new box of crayons with rows of perfectly sharpened tips in every color. For others it means the embarrassment of not being able to afford the school supplies on the teachers' lists.

You can help make the beginning of school a positive one for needy students in Mankato/North Mankato. August 1<sup>st</sup> a box will be placed in the narthex to collect school supplies for needy children. All school supplies are needed, especially #2 pencils, erasers, colored pocket folders, pencil boxes, crayons, watercolors, and back packs. A list of needed items will be posted near the collection box.



**Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative  
(MAFTTI)**

is pleased to present

**THE FAIR TRADE**

What is your life worth?

This innovative feature documentary film (58 mins.) explores issues of fair trade, social justice, healing and a meaningful life. The story centers on a young American woman, Tamara Johnston, who, to her surprise, finds in Fair Trade a means of moving beyond a deeply personal tragedy.

Where? North Mankato City Hall Community Room, 1001 Belgrade Avenue

When? Thursday, August 12. Refreshments 7:15pm. Film 7:30pm.

Entrance to the Community Room is via the lower level north door next to the garage.

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**Vestry Meeting Minutes for 6/27/10  
Property Escrow Fund Grows and Vestry  
Moves Forward on Projects**

Meeting in regular session in Fr. Paul’s absence the Vestry dispatched business in one hour flat taking action to move forward on two of the three maintenance projects.

The group accepted bids from Andrew Cramblit to replace the leaning parking lot retaining wall and from Rickway Carpet to replace the aisle and altar carpeting. Candace Black stepped up to take charge of a “Wall Comes Tumbling Down Party.”

The Vestry tabled bids on the roof repairs until additional information is acquired to fairly compare the bids in hand and seek some additional bids. They will call a special session when there is sufficient information to make a decision.

In other business, the Vestry heard positive reports on the “Free Market” event as worth doing again, that the dishwasher drain leak had been repaired, and set August 8<sup>th</sup> as the date for Mass in the Grass at the Lower Pavilion in Sibley Park.

**Moving Right Along**

By now you should be aware of the 2010 St. John’s Building Fund (for replacing the mural wall in the parking lot, repairing a roof problem, replacing sanctuary carpeting and paying a city assessment). You can now follow the progress of the fund with a calibrated thermometer outside the office. We have raised \$29,000 as of this printing with our ultimate goal being \$34,000. A very big THANKS to all of our contributors and keep it coming!



Come One! Come All! Yes, it's time for St. John's Mass in the Grass. Please come and join us for Mass (worship starts at **10:00 am**) and a wonderful picnic on Sunday, August 8th. We are once again at Sibley Park, in the shelter by the river, for our annual summer picnic.

Please bring a friend, and a dish to share. We are so fortunate to have the Men's Club providing the meat, drinks, condiments, plates, napkins and eating utensils for our event. If you get a chance make sure to thank them for their generosity, along with Andy Anderson, for providing the fabulous corn on the cob.

If you have any questions, please email or call me at 469-0595. We look forward to a terrific turnout this year.

Your Senior Warden, Jaci Lageson

## **LOOK FOR IT!!**

**Sept. 12 Marks Our Fall Kick-off.**

**We'll resume our two services**

**At 8:00 and 10:30 am**

**AND**

**Launch our Sunday School and Faith Formation Classes at 9:30 am.**

## **Something New Has Been Added**

In case you are wondering exactly what it is that has landed in the Parish Hall atop four card tables, the short answer is-- Carmen Miranda's skirt. The full story is a little more complicated.

The yellow "skirt" is a display from the MAFTTI (Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative) float that was made for the North Mankato Fun Days Parade. You will notice that different Fair Trade products are displayed on the different levels of the skirt. But the best part was the Carmen Miranda look-like (Amy Friedman) who was perched in the middle of the skirt to dance and wave her way around North Mankato.

It was a great day for a parade with many people applauding the Fair Trade message and many more registering the idea for the first time.

Admittedly, all of this is hard to imagine so we've included a photo. Our thanks to Fr. Paul for riding along in the vehicle that towed the float and for letting the skirt display roost temporarily at St. John's. MAFTTI



# Lay Ministry Schedule

<b>9:00 Summer Service * (10:00 on August 8th)</b>	
<p><b><u>August 1</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Judy Anderson, Mary Yurek, Peter Poulos Candace Black, Bill Gray Nickie VanStelten, Joan Hertel Oster/Lageson/Olauson</p>
<p><b><u>August 8*</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Don Duncanson, Peter Poulos, Leslie Peterson Audrey Splinter, Meg Stump Stephen Deeren, Karl Mundell Mass in the Grass 10:00am-potluck following</p>
<p><b><u>August 15</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Peter Poulos, Elsie Olson, Ginny McNear Bobbie Seberson, Andrew Westberg Gerry Schneck, Joan Hertel Duncanson/Britton</p>
<p><b><u>August 22</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Judy Anderson, Peter Poulos, Jan Mickelson Leslie Peterson, Ginny McNear Nickie VanStelten, Pam Bartholomew Zwickey/Steil</p>
<p><b><u>August 29</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Mary Yurek, Ginny McNear, Peter Poulos Jaci Lageson, Pam Oster Nickie VanStelten, Ann Clark Hovren/Anderson</p>

*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 August**

9 a.m. Bobbi Hovren, Audrey Splinter, Mary Babcock, Elsie Olson

Monthly meeting Thursday, 8/26/10 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.



AVGUST

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,