



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

January 2011

Paul's Ponderings

This Month's Happenings

Ok. Let's try this again.

Remember my Ponderings this past November? Well, in case you don't etch these wonderful musings of your priest in your long-term memory, I wrote about starting a new initiative at St. John's. Taking up on the fourth item of our logo tagline — Dancing — I proposed that we start up a team of folk interested in reaching out into our community to share the joy we have as children of God. I suggested that we call ourselves the St. John's Dance Team. And I set up a meeting for all who wanted to participate.

Well.

The day of the proposed meeting was a horrendous one weather-wise. And that really was a good thing. I cancelled the meeting. Later, through talking with some of you, I discovered — much to my absolute horror! — that many people thought I really wanted to start a dance team. Now, can you imagine me starting a real bone fide liturgical-chorus-line of Episcopalians? I mean,

REALLY?

Well, some of you did. Now I've never been

Jan. 2	Outreach Mtg., noon
Jan. 5	ECW Mtg., 11 am
Jan. 6	Annual Report deadline
Jan. 8	Men's Group, 8 am
Jan. 9	"Dance" Team Mtg., noon
Jan. 15	Green Team Mtg., 9 am
Jan. 18	St. Julian's Mtg., 7 pm
Jan. 23	Vestry mtg. noon
Jan. 27	Altar Guild 9 am
Jan. 30	Annual Meeting & Potluck

More Inside...

called "The Great Communicator" (that's kinda been left to someone else), but I sure did blow this one, huh?

Anyway. Long story short. I am not wanting to start a dance team. But I do want us to look at ways in which we can spread the joy of Christ (the "Dancing" part of our tagline) within our community. Don't look at this as being an effort at evangelism. Look at this as a way to share who we are with our neighbors. Let people know that we are here. Do something to enrich the lives of others without quoting scripture or forcing people to come to us. Let's go to them! Let's find ways of engaging those beyond our walls in activities which are fun, playful, and

maybe even a little bit meaningful: an expression of the joy we know.

Think of the things we could do: neighborhood block party, a Spring gala fundraiser for a local charity or service organization, we could sponsor a float during Fun Days, heck, we could even do some kind of flash mob thing at a hockey game. The possibilities are endless.

Now. I know that some of you may think me crazy, and you very well may be right. But this could work. We've got inventive and creative people in our congregation with lots of energy and zeal. So c'mon. Join me after our 1030am worship on 9 January for a little conversation, some food (pizza, anyone?), and fun. The first nine people who show up will receive a free gift (really!). Let's spread the JOY!

Thanks be to God!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Mary Berner
- 1/6 Linda Duckett
- 1/8 The Rev'd Philip (Phil) Clark
- 1/14 Pam Bartholomew
- 1/22 Bernie Lindberg
- 1/23 Rochelle Wegman
- 1/26 Nickie VanStelten
- 1/27 Roberta (Bobbi) Hovren
- 1/28 Jim McGuire
- 1/11 Jolly Corley

Annual Meeting 2011

Believe it or not, we're getting ready for our 2011 Annual Parish Meeting! Held on the final Sunday in January—which, this next year, is on the 30th — 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—and then EAT. (Potluck follows the meeting.)

All Parish organizations are encouraged to present a written report (preferably in MS Office format). Please send these electronically to the Church Office at 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. The deadline for receiving submissions is 6 January!

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

ECW will meet in the church

January 5

11 am

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

RSVP

moljam@hickorytech.net

Ann 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."

St. John's Outreach Committee met Sunday, December 5. The meeting was opened with prayer.

HeatShare Program of the Salvation Army.

The committee discussed how financial hardship will impact keeping homes heated. It seems like there are more people in need and less money to go around. The Salvation Army's HeatShare program provides a convenient way to help struggling neighbors with their heating bills. We decided to donate \$125.

ECHO Food Shelf. More and more food is needed and making a monetary donation makes it possible for ECHO to purchase food at reduced prices. We donated \$125.

The Mitten Tree gathered two *full* boxes of hats, gloves, socks, and personal care items this

year. We counted 112 items!! Supplying needed warm winter gear is just one way that our parish supports our community. To each individual who was able to donate this year—Thank you!

Coming up... Undie Sunday on February 13th. Sounds pretty bizarre doesn't it? Often this is a need overlooked but let's face it, undergarments are an item we would all miss if we didn't have them. Not everyone can afford to supply them for themselves or their family. We will be collecting packages of men's underwear, and undershirts; packages of women's underwear or sports bras; and boys and girls underwear. All sizes will be accepted but must be new and in the packages. Different Episcopal parishes in the U.S. have held Undie Sunday collections and it has been both popular and successful. We, too, can make it a success. Look forward to hearing more about Undie Sunday throughout January and February.

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.

St. Julian's Guild will hold its first meeting of 2011, on January 18, at 7:00 pm. Please join us at the home of Barbara Partridge, 911 Baker Ave.

Vestry Approves Budget for 2011

Meeting in short session, the Vestry approved the finance committee's budget, the Pooled Investment Fund draw, and designated Fr. Paul's housing allowance for the coming year.

Unlike most years, the nomination committee has more than enough candidates for the upcoming Vestry vacancies and as usual, no candidates for the choice jobs of junior and senior wardens. The current folks will probably serve another year and work on transition to a new organizational model to spread responsibilities and reduce individual burdens.

In other business, the vestry heard a personnel committee report on holding pay rates currently in place and updating job descriptions.



Adult Education Hour: The Nicene Creed

Drop in during adult education hour. On January 9, 16, and 23, the topic for discussion will be the Nicene Creed. The class examines the fourth century political and religious contexts that helped to shape the Creed. What is the Creed's significance? What do its words mean to you? Chris Corley will host the discussion about one of the most significant statements of faith in history.

NOTE:

There will be no Sunday School for children or adults on Sunday, December 26 or January 2nd. Classes will resume January 9.

Junior Warden Completes Landmark Year

It has been a landmark year. The retaining wall was repaired, the sanctuary carpet replaced, a paving lean paid, and the dishwasher brought back from the dead. Roof replacement is scheduled for Spring and once the roof repairs are completed, repair of wall damage caused by ice dam leaks can finally be done. More importantly, an escrow account has been established for future repairs and a budget line item created to replenish it annually.

Work will continue in the coming year on cleaning out storage areas and disposing of surplus. Some lighting upgrades in the sanctuary are also on the drawing boards to simplify maintenance and reduce energy use.

Water pooling on the outside south aisle of the sanctuary Sunday before last was traced to an ice dam cascading down the outside wall that was trapping water at the base of window panels and causing water to leak inside. Ice has been chipped and melted to scotch the leak. They will be re-caulked when it warms some.

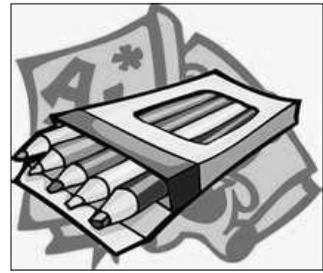


TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2010

Our offerings for the month of November totaled \$24,401 and we transferred \$2000 from the Capital Account to the General Fund. Our expenses totaled \$12,808. We received a large number of pledge offerings at the end of the month which will help us avoid a transfer of funds in December. We now have a deficit for the year so far of \$16,091 that has been covered by our transfers from the Capital Account...leaving us a balance in that account of \$16,726. Our Property Escrow Account has a balance of \$36,802. We received our initial check for \$22,344 from the insurance company for our roof repair claim. The Finance Committee has proposed the 2011 Budget to the Vestry for their approval at the December meeting. Thank you to everyone for keeping your pledges current.

Respectfully submitted,

Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer



Something New!

Looking for something to occupy your youngster during services? The EpiscoPals have come up with a great idea—a cloth book with crayons, paper and activity sheets. Andrew Westberg has even inserted a hard backing in each book to make it easier to work on. The blue and green cloth books will be located in the shelves inside the sanctuary doors. Please feel free to try one out.

Faithformation Fun Facts:

We want to thank all of St. John's children for a wonderful performance of "Sleepover at the Stable" on Christmas Eve at the children's service. Thank you for all the hard work and extra practice time. It was wonderful to see so many children participate not only in play, but with music, readings and offertory. Thank you also to the parents for bringing them to rehearsal and helping them learn their lines and songs. I want to especially thank Kristin Cvancara for playing the piano and to Lolly Foy for directing the play and making marvelous costumes for the children.

Calling all acolytes!! Calling all acolytes!!

All children in 3rd grade and older are welcome. We will start training in February. Please watch for further announcements for times and dates. Thank you to Chris Corley and Andrew Westberg for volunteering to help our older children to become part of the service at St. John's!

Thank You

to all who donated
flowers and money
for our Christmas
poinsettia plants.



Beautiful!!

The Votes Are In

Your votes have been counted and St. John's will be sending Millennium Development Goal donations to ERD's Micro-credit Loans to Women and Heifer International. Those two were very close in votes so the counting committee decided to donate to them proportionally by financing 4 micro credit loans for women (\$800) and 6 goats for Heifer (\$ 720).

If you would like to add your own donation to either of these causes simply drop your check made out to your preferred program into the offertory plate by January 2nd and Bill Gray will see that it gets forwarded.

Green Team

For a kick-off meeting of the new year our Green Team will be meeting at Panera, Saturday, January 15 at 9:00 am. We will be talking about what to do next and when and where to meet on a regular basis. If you have any questions about the group or would like to participate in this important work, call/e-mail Betty Winkworth, 387-7170, jbwink@charter.net. We are always looking for new ideas and ways to improve our stewardship of the planet.



Kenneth Delmont Zimmerman received a wet welcome to St. John's at his baptism November 7th. Kenneth is the son of choir members Jerusha and Eric Zimmerman.



On Dec. 4th, the Men's Group had 14 children from CADA age 3-11 to Christmas shop for their mothers. They enjoyed Christmas songs, hot chocolate, cookies and a gift for each to take back to the house. Fun had by all.



Altar Guild in January

8:00 a.m. Bobbi Hovren

10:30 a.m. Elsie Olson, Nickie VanStelten

Monthly meeting Thursday, 1/27/11 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.

Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<u>January 2</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Jaci Lageson Stephen Deeren Anderson/ Hadley	Mary Yurek, L Peterson, Peter Poulos Ray Splinter, Audrey Splinter Pam Bartholomew, Joan Hertel Keller
<u>January 9</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Cathie Neitge, Pam Oster Stephen Deeren	Peter Poulos, Elsie Olson, Jan Mickelson Meg Stump, Andrew Westberg Karl Mundell, Gerry Schneck Mackie
<u>January 16</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Leslie Peterson, Bobbie Seberson Stephen Deeren	Peter Poulos, Pat Johnson, G McNear Bill Gray, Candace Black Nickie VanStelten, Pam Bartholomew McGuire
<u>January 23</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Jaci Lageson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren Wegman	Peter Poulos, Mary Yurek, C Black Ginny McNear, John Paul Ann Clark, Gerry Schneck Paul/Fischer
<u>January 30</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Pam Oster, Leslie Peterson Stephen Deeren Oster/ Lageson/ Frost	Mary Yurek, Jordin Johnson, P Poulos Audrey Splinter, Ray Splinter Nickie VanStelten, Joan Hertel Potluck/ Annual Meeting

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

Also, sometime in January, we will commission all of you: Lectors, Greeters, LEMs during your worship time. I will let you know with at least two week's notice. We are waiting for licenses from the Diocese for our LEMs. When we get them, we'll do the commissioning!

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!

January



Mankato, MN 56002

PO Box 1119

Praying, Working, Growing, Dancing in Christ



St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

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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,