



# The Chronicle

Mankato, Minnesota

April 2010

## *Paul's Ponderings*

### **Working: The hands of Christ**

(Note: This is the second in a series of articles exploring the meaning of the tagline, "Praying, Working, Growing, Dancing, In Christ" that is part of St. John's logo)

The spirituality of Benedictine monasticism centers around three aspects of the life of the Christian: Prayer, Study, Work. Finding balance in these three areas of life is the ongoing goal of a person of faith and brings one into a closer relationship with Christ and with one's neighbor.

In our baptismal covenant we affirm that we will "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving (our) neighbor as (our) selves." Our daily walk with Christ is one which we are invited into the doing of Christ's work in the world. Seeking and serving Christ in others means that we are to be the very hands of Christ, reaching out to others in need. As our life of worship—the "heart" of Christ—shapes and transforms us, we are empowered to fully carry out Christ's work of healing and reconciliation in a world that is broken and estranged from God. To be a Christian is to be a servant, evangelist, and steward, using our gifts in the power of the Spirit as we extend our hands in love for our

## This Month's Happenings

- Apr 1 Maundy Thursday Liturgy, 7 pm
- Apr 2 Good Friday Liturgy, noon
- Apr 2 Stations of the Cross, 7 pm
- Apr 3 Holy Saturday Liturgy, 9 am
- Apr 4 Easter Vigil and Breakfast, 6 am
- Apr 7 ECW, Northwoods, noon
- Apr 10 Men's Group, 8 am
- Apr 14 ECW Region IV, St. Peter
- Apr 16 Judy Shepard, MSU, 7 pm
- Apr 18 Billion Acts of Green, Parish Hall
- Apr 20 MSU Lunch Group, 11:30 am
- Apr 20 St Julian's Guild, 7 pm
- Apr 21-24 ECW Rummage Sale
- Apr 25 Vestry Meeting, noon
- Apr 29 Altar Guild, 9 am

*More Inside...*

neighbors around the world.

What does it mean to be Christ's hands?

It means nothing less than doing what Jesus did. Jesus fed the multitudes. So must we. Jesus healed the sick. We too. Jesus spoke out against injustice in a society where those on the margins were kept there by those at the center. We must

(Continued from page 1)

also speak out against the continuing injustices we encounter every day and actively work to correct them. He proclaimed release to the captives and good news to the poor. As Christ's hands we must not only proclaim the same things, we must actively work to make it so.

As he was preparing for his final time with his disciples, Jesus told them, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14.12) Imagine the great works the Church of God will do if we but believe it possible. As the hands of Christ working in the world, we can do just that.

Thanks be to God!



**April Birthdays:**

- 2 Mary Babcock
- 2 Barbara Partridge
- 6 Dale Van Stelten
- 8 Andrew Westberg
- 9 Larry Lageson
- 12 Leah Keller
- 15 Barbara O'Brien
- 19 Anne (Nannie) Clements
- 23 John Paul
- 24 Gerry Schneck
- 24 Mike Kolbinger
- 30 Roger Sheffer
- 30 Larry Fowler

**April Anniversaries:**

- 11 Andy and Judy Anderson
- 25 Mike and Jane Kearney
- 28 Jerry and Rochelle Wegman



**FOOD FOR FRIENDS**

Sincere thanks to all helping with Food For Friends at the Salvation Army on Saturday, March 27th. Your service is greatly appreciated!

Holy Week Schedule		
April 1 Maundy Thursday	7pm	Holy Eucharist & Night Watch
April 2 Good Friday	Noon	Liturgy
	7pm	Stations of the Cross
April 3 Holy Saturday	9am	Liturgy of the Word
April 4 Easter Day	6am	Easter Vigil & Breakfast
	10:30 am	Festival Eucharist



*St. John's Men's Group will be providing a breakfast again this year on Easter. Please plan on joining us in the Parish Hall after the Sunrise Service on April 4<sup>th</sup>.*

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!**

We all like to get the most for our money and for ECHO Food Shelf this is the time.

Any donations received by March 31st will accrue extra spending value for ECHO.

Just send your check to ECHO, P.O. Box 3212 or drop it off at 614 N. 2nd St., Mankato

**St. Julian's Guild**

St. Julian's will have it's April meeting on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. Ann Clark will be hosting at her home at 7025 Da Mar Estates and all St. John's women are welcome.



**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 on Sunday, March 7 after the 10:30AM service.

Thank you letters were received from World Vision and Teresa House. Twenty pounds of food and supplies were sent to ECHO Food Shelf.

A donation of \$300 was given to the ECHO Food Shelf. This charity supplies the Mankato area. There has been a dramatic increase in those who need support. In addition to our donations of actual items, ECHO is able to purchase more goods than the general public can using the same amount of money.

Feeding America received \$50 dollars. This charity supports ECHO Food Shelf and other charities. They are able to buy wholesale food items at very low prices for distribution within the United States.

Information regarding many of the charities supported by St. John's Outreach Committee

may be found on display in the parish hall.

The Outreach Committee meets on the first Sunday of each month after the 10:30 service. All members of St. John's are welcome to become part of this group.



**Aisle Carpeting**

Bids for three options ranging from \$1250 to about \$5000 have been forwarded to Fr. Paul for review by the Liturgy Committee. Standing bids include installation costs and a materials allowances for replacing the center portion of the aisle runner, the whole runner, or a tile option. Those bid depend on whether material selection falls within the materials allowance in the bids.

St. John's MSU folk will meet for lunch in the CSU Heritage Room on Tuesday, April 20 from 11:30 to 1. Stay for as little or as long as you like. Just stop by to say "hi." Bring a friend.

## Discretionary Fund

Did you know that our rector has a special fund to provide assistance to persons in need or for other non-budgeted parish expenses which arise from time to time? St. John's Discretionary Fund is a fund of the parish that is maintained by the rector of the parish. As to the purpose of the fund, here is what our financial guidelines say about the Fund's purpose

*...gifts to the poor and needy, gifts to any recognized charitable organization and gifts to the church itself, are within the general intent of discretionary funds. National Church guidelines also permit the use of discretionary funds for expenses "related to the exercise of ministry not otherwise provided in the church's budget" so long as the vestry gives prior general approval for such use of the funds. This could include the purchase of books, journals and related expenses, but should not be used for the general operating expenses of the church. It is recommended that such items be provided through a budget line entitled "rector's expenses" rather than paid out of the discretionary fund.*



While individuals or groups may make donations to the fund, most income is received through the loose plate (non-pledged) offering on the third Sunday of every month. Typically, this amounts to about \$1000 (give or take) per year. And while the rector maintains the fund (thus respecting the confidentiality of persons/groups receiving assistance) the account is independently reviewed by a member of the parish.

The third Sunday of every month, we will endeavor to make a note in the Weekly Evangelist that the loose plate offering for that day goes into the Discretionary Fund. You might want to raid your piggy bank that morning and throw in some change!



## Nursing Home Worship

From time to time St. John's is responsible for providing worship to the residents of our area nursing homes. In the past, our priest has done these mostly on his own but he always likes 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 us 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 song books, 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 Mankato House on 14April at 3:30pm.



### **May Day Set for Adopt-A-Highway**

Saturday, May 1st, has been set for the spring adopt-a-highway sweep. Volunteers are needed to meet in the St. John's parking lot at 9 AM for the journey out to the church's adopted section of Highway 68 toward New Ulm. Kids are welcome. Work should finish by noon. Questions? Contact Jerry Stump, 344-1894.



### **Dishwasher Rides Again**

St. John's 1967 Hobart dishwasher has been refurbished. The junior warden with the help of friend, John Bipes, completely disassembled the unit's pre-heater, cleaned out years of accumulated hardness, and reassembled the unit with all new plumbing and fittings.

If you follow the new directions for using the unit, posted on the kitchen wall, you can be up to temperature and ready to wash in less than 10 minutes. A tray of dishes can be washed and rinsed in a minute and a quarter. See the Junior Warden or Dale Van Stelten for a demo and training on how to use it.



### **Junior Warden to Follow Up with City on Retaining Wall**

The Junior Warden plans to meet with the city engineer to review what remedy will be an acceptable response to his citation of the old parking lot retaining wall. St. John's is coming to the end of the two year grace period to take corrective action. A bid is in hand to tear down the old leaning wall and extend the new retaining wall around the corner.

**ST. JOHN'S ECW**

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

**APRIL 22 -24**

Yes, it's another opportunity to recycle your gently used clothing, CD's, DVD's, household & kitchen items, books, toys, purses, luggage, games, shoes, and more!

Questions? 387-4396 (Ann)

Please volunteer to help.

## Earth Ministry

### A Good Time Was Had By All

March 19th was a cold but sunny Friday at the Elks Nature Center. With no school it was a great chance to hike and dig and read about maple syrup and find camouflaged things—or even better, make tiny houses beside the trail with moss carpets for any fairies or caterpillars to discover.



Our thanks to Jolly Corley, Kelsey Maki and the MSU students and faculty member who did such a fine job with our first mini-camp. The goal was to help children connect a little deeper with nature. Judging from the enthusiasm of the 6 children ranging in age from 5-8, it was a great success.

It was so much fun that we can expect another mini-camp in May.

## Fair Trade Update

The effort to make Mankato and North Mankato the first Fair Trade Towns in Minnesota is making good progress.

- We currently have six churches that have declared themselves Fair Trade Churches (with St. John's leading the way) and several others working on the process.

- MAFTII (Mankato Fair Trade Town Initiative) is also distributing table tents congratulating businesses that serve or sell Fair Trade goods, such as, Christy's Café and the Coffee Hag. Their design came from our own Kelli Christianson.

- We will have tables in the gymnasium at East High's International Festival on April 11, 11:00-4:00 p.m. where you can buy such Fair Trade items as coffee, tea, olive oil, chocolate and locally made Naked Beauty Products. You can also check out our attractive new t-shirts, "Let All Trade Be Fair Trade."



- May 8<sup>th</sup> is Worldwide Fair Trade Day and local businesses will be selling Fair Trade Flowers Saturday in time for Mother's Day.

- We're even planning on participating in North Mankato's Fun Days Parade.

- We do have our own MAFTTI logo and will soon have our own website up and running. Until then you can locate more information on [www.fairtradetownusa.org](http://www.fairtradetownusa.org) or call your church representative, Betty Winkworth at 387-7170.

**Thanks, again for your support!**



TREASURER'S REPORT  
FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Total revenues for February were \$14,038 for the General Fund and total expenses were \$14,066. This left us with a deficit of \$28. The Capital Account increased by \$8,928 made up of \$30 in donations, \$185 in Memorials (which will be moved into the Pooled Investment Fund) and \$8,912 in Pooled Investment Fund earnings for the 4th quarter of 2009. The Pooled Investment fund had fee expenses totaling \$453.00 in the 4th quarter. This leaves the new balance in the Fund at \$235,325. The balance of the Capital Account at the end of February was \$34,257.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

**Most Generous of You!**

Besides celebrating our newest babies on March 21st, we raised \$625 for ECHO and lots of food and supplies with our ECHO Baby Party. OF NOTE: the idea is also catching on with other churches in town having their own baby parties for ECHO.

Thanks! St. Julian's

**A BILLION ACTS OF GREEN**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day and our Green Team has decided to help St. John's celebrate with the rest of the world. The idea is for each of us to choose one more thing we could do for the earth and enter that pledge into a world-wide, on-line list until it reaches one "Billion Acts of Green."

We know that St. John's members are already living the phrase "Reduce, Recycle, Reuse" and we appreciate your many efforts. You should be proud of yourselves and our church.

**What to do next?**

Simply complete the sheet on the next page and bring it to church and put it in a pledge basket in the narthex. On Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> Green Team members will be in the Parish Hall during both coffee hours entering our pledges into laptops and answering any questions. You can also follow the progress of the list on-line at [www.billionactsofgreen.net](http://www.billionactsofgreen.net) and even find your pledge by locating your password.

Thanks, for your support!  
Your Green Team

### To Join a Billion Acts of Green

Simply: Decide what one more thing that you can do for the earth. Some ideas are listed below.

1. Write it down or check a box.
2. Add a short temporary password for entering it into a computer, like, "bobstjohns"
3. Give this sheet to a Green Team member or place it in a pledge basket in the narthex by April 18.

### Earth Day Commitments

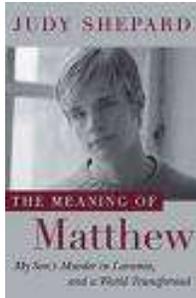
I want to do my part to improve the state of our environment! This year I will commit to...

- ◇ printing less off of the computer; what I do print, I will rip up and reuse for scrap paper.
- ◇ mowing only what I need to. Invest in a push mower or a battery operated mower?
- ◇ switching to cloth napkins. Use dark colors. If you have a family, give each person a different color so you can reuse them from meal to meal.
- ◇ practicing "meatless Mondays" (or any other day). Not eating meat one day a week has a significant impact on the environment.
- ◇ giving up paper towels. Establish a pile of scrap towels, or old torn up t-shirts to use for cleaning up messes instead.
- ◇ giving up bottled water. Invest in a reusable water bottle (s).
- ◇ switching to organic cat litter. Organic cat litter is compostable.
- ◇ carpooling to church or work at least once a month..
- ◇ using reusable shopping bags, at the grocery and elsewhere.
- ◇ recycling batteries. Batteries Plus on Madison recycles batteries.
- ◇ take up composting my biodegradables. Or just throwing scraps out on the flower garden.
- ◇ creating my own cleaning products using staples like vinegar and baking soda. *Better Basics for the Home* by Annie Berthold-Bond is a great resource.
- ◇ something else \_\_\_\_\_



My temporary password for entering on-line: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! Every small act helps.**



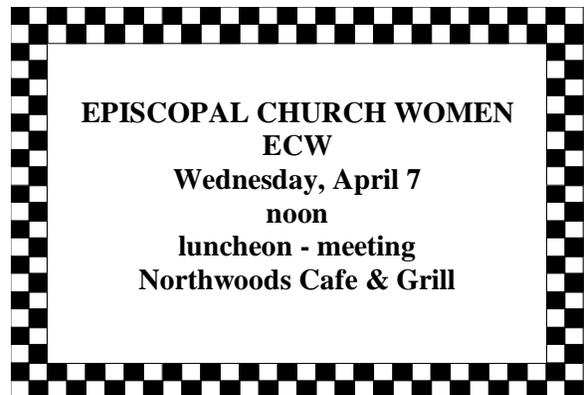
Judy Shepard, activist, author and mother of murdered college student Matthew Shepard will speak at MSU, Mankato, April 6th, 2010 at 7pm. in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom. A book signing will follow her lecture.

In October 1998, Judy and Dennis Shepard lost their 21 year-old son, Matthew, to a murder motivated by anti-gay hate. Matthew's death moved many thousands of people around the world to attend vigils and rallies in his memory. Determined to prevent others from suffering their son's fate, Judy and Dennis decided to turn their grief into action and established the Matthew Shepard Foundation to carry on Matthew's legacy.

In 2009, Judy authored the memoir, "The Meaning of Matthew," exploring the family's journey through the prosecution of Matthew's assailants, the ensuing media coverage and their continuing work to advance civil rights. Judy travels across the nation speaking to audiences about what they can do as individuals and communities to make this world a more accepting place for everyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender identity and expression, or sexual orientation.

### Let Us Know!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this May or June, please let us know in the office, 388-1969, or at [stjohns@hickorytech.net](mailto:stjohns@hickorytech.net). We'd like to acknowledge your achievement and include you in our prayers.



# Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<b>April 4</b> EASTER		
<b>April 11</b> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Severson, Cathy Neitge Steve Deeren	Mary Yurek, Elsie Olson, Peter Poulos Ray Splinter, Ginny McNear Karl Mundell, Gerry Schneck Clark
<b>April 18</b> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Pam Oster, Jaci Lageson Steve Deeren	Peter Poulos, Leslie Peterson, Hogans Audrey Splinter, Candace Black Joan Hertel, Pam Bartholomew Mundell
<b>April 25</b> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Leslie Peterson, Cathy Neitge Steve Deeren	P. Poulos, Candace Black, G McNear Meg Stump, Andrew Westberg Nickie VanStelten, Ann Clark Paul/ Fischer

*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 March

8 a.m. Missy Manderfeld

10:30 a.m. Nickie VanStelten, Ann McGuire, Pat Johnson

Monthly meeting Thursday, 4/29/10 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.



Mankato, MN 56002  
PO Box 1119  
Training, Working, Growing, Disciple in Christ  
**SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

S t. John the E vangelist E piscopal C hurch  
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,